

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Homelessness On the Home Front

By Denise Minor

Census takers hit the city streets, visited church-basement shelters, and scoured public parks late last month in an attempt to count the nation's homeless. But if they didn't make it to Noe Valley, their count is a few people short.

"At one time, not too long ago, we didn't seem to have any homeless in the neighborhood," said Bonnie Jones, owner of Gladrag's clothing store on 24th Street. "Now we definitely have a few. I pass them every day."

Officer Lois Perillo, the area's new "beat cop," personally knows two Noe Valley homeless "residents." She knows five others who apparently sleep elsewhere, but come to 24th Street during the day to panhandle. One of them receives Social Security, veteran's assistance, and welfare, but supplements his income by asking for change on the street.

"It's a misnomer to call all panhandlers homeless. There's a story behind each person," said Perillo.

Whether you call them homeless or just down-and-out, few will deny that there has been an abrupt increase in the number of people panhandling or hanging out in doorways and on benches in Noe Valley.

Joy McLeod, owner of Caruso Wine & Liquor Store at 4011 24th Street, first started noticing the panhandlers two years ago. In the past year, the increase has been dramatic.

"One day I counted six between Wells Fargo Bank and here [less than a block]," she said. "Word has gotten around that it's easy pickings on this street. . . . They [the panhandlers] even shove each other away. Some feel they have priority."

Curbing Our Waste

City Recycling Comes to Noe Valley

By Michele Lynn

The greenhouse effect. Holes in the ozone layer. Today's environmental problems seem so overwhelming, we've all probably wondered, where do I begin in order to make a difference?

The answer is: right at home, with the garbage. And this month, Noe Valley residents will have the opportunity to recycle much of their refuse practically at their doorstep.

During April, 40,000 homes in San Francisco, including those in Noe Valley, will be phased into the San Francisco Curbside Recycling Program, operated by the city in conjunction with Sunset Scavenger and Golden Gate Disposal.

"We began curbside collection one year ago in the south-central part of the city, with 28,000 homes," says Church Street resident Any Perlmutter, who is

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Over the last two years, the plight of the homeless has moved out of the news pages and onto the sidewalks of Noe Valley. PHOTO BY ED BURYN

Since McLeod opens her store in the morning and doesn't close until 9 p.m., she sees a turnover in those who frequent 24th Street. Some panhandlers leave at

5 p.m. "as if they're punching a clock," while a few others stay quite late. Some

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Survey of Stores

What's Your Bag—Paper Or Plastic?

By Jon Sindell

Walking 24th Street means more than just good times and exercise. It means having your political awareness tested by a gauntlet of political propagandists, your sense of charity challenged by ragged unfortunates asking for money, and your environmental consciousness questioned by the familiar checkstand cry, "Paper or plastic?"

Since the U.S. is in the midst of a waste disposal crisis, and since plastic comprises 25 percent of this country's household waste by volume (6.5 percent by weight), the choice between paper and plastic is becoming increasingly important to ecologically-concerned citizens.

To check the packaging pulse of the neighborhood, the *Voice* recently conducted an informal survey of baggers—and baggees—on Noe Valley's commercial strip.

Walgreens, a relative newcomer to Noe Valley at 1333 Castro Street, is one of the few major stores in the neighborhood to offer plastic bags only (except for ice cream bags).

According to Walgreens' store manager Steve Fuller, plastic bags are "much less bulky" than paper. This is an important consideration, he says, in light of the drugstore's "cash register congestion" and limited back room storage space.

Fuller declined, however, to further discuss the store's plastic-only policy, deferring to Walgreen Drug Stores' corporate spokeswoman in Chicago, Mary Ellen Thielen.

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Sunset Scavenger employees Matt Murphy (left) and Gary Degliantoni, shown here on an Excelsior District run, will be bringing their curbside recycling truck to Noe Valley, starting this month. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

Too Many Panhandlers Spoil the Pot

Editor:

It is unfortunate that the growing number of people asking for "spare change" on 24th and Castro streets make it difficult to recognize those who might be in dire need. There seems to be a "network" of regulars that hit you up on a regular basis near Walgreens, Thrifty's, Hopwell's, the Wells Fargo ATM, and Sunday brunch at Panos'.

It has been so excessive that this writer (unfortunately) will no longer give to a "street person" but only to an agency dedicated to caring for the needy directly.

R.W. Arrant
Jersey Street

Grateful to Good Samaritans

Editor:

It was my father who was found wandering the streets confused and with a burst appendix on February 15 (see "Rumors" by Mazook, March Voice). I would like to say again that if the Lebane family had not found him, he would have died sometime during the night in that storm because I never considered searching for him up where they live [on Noe Street—Mr. Amos had disappeared from St. Luke's Hospital].

I think this is a remarkable confirmation of the value of knowing one's neighborhood and the people in it. The Lebanes know their neighbors, and their doors are open to the people around them. Their care is certainly a wonderful example to my mother and me—my father is home and recovering. I will try to be the same good neighbor as an example—for my own sake.

Jean Amos
Elizabeth Street

Outrage Over "Househusbands" Letter

Editor:

I must respond to the letter you received from Leslie Clark last month regarding the article in your February issue ["Three Men and Their Babies: Adventures in Househusbandry," by Addie Lanier].

Clark certainly takes a dim view of any alternative to her heterosexist model of Woman Plus Man Equals Bona Fide Parents. She implies that her opinions result from her work with emotionally disturbed children, and makes the vague accusation that same-sex and single parents create emotionally disturbed children. She then concludes that these parents



LETTERS 25¢

have no right to have children! Beyond being an outrageous claim, this is a dangerous, bigoted distortion of truth.

The single parents I know—whether single-parenting by choice or circumstance—are absolutely heroic. I am a lesbian mother of two in an equal co-parenting relationship with my lover of many years. I've often wondered, should my life be different, if I could measure up to the accomplishments of my single-parent friends.

As for Ms. Clark's attack on gay and lesbian parents, I have a hunch she's never really met any—until, by writing her letter, she coincidentally met me. Her concern for providing positive female and male role models for children in gay and lesbian families is indeed an important issue that we could discuss. But first, let's face the real issue: homophobia.

Ms. Clark owes it to herself, and to any children she may have contact with, to broaden her horizons on the subject of family structure, not to mention human rights.

Jo Vanderham
Niagara Avenue

Editor:

The attitudes reflected in the letter you published by Leslie Clark appalled me. Her general point—that God, nature, or whatever made it necessary for a member of each sex to participate in creation and that therefore a mother and a father were necessary to successfully parent a child—is logical rubbish.

Even if we ignore the fact that advances in medical science may soon require no more than an ovum, a sperm, and an artificial womb to produce a baby, inspection of the rest of the animal kingdom shows many societies in which either one sex or pairings of the same sex raise the young. Indeed, pairs of female geese successfully "parent" their young.

As for the single-parenting issue, I have met many perfectly awful children raised by two parents, and several fine children raised by one parent, whether male or female.

Ms. Clark's particular point—that the two men in your story on househusbands have no right "to deprive the child they are raising of a mother"—is also completely baseless. I know the family quite well. Their daughter is as well-adjusted as any other 18-month-old, and they are attentive, tolerant, and compassionate parents. Our son plays with their daughter frequently, and we would trust him to their care before we would trust him to many other "traditional" parents of our acquaintance.

While I fervently hope that the Ms. Clarks of the world will one day wake up and smell the coffee, I sadly fear that because of their intolerance and narrow-mindedness, they will continue to muddy the waters of parenting and childcare for a long time to come.

Jeff Tate
22nd Street

Editor:

What gives gay, lesbian, and single persons the right to parent? A great start is having the love it takes to consciously choose to parent, as the gay adoptive parents did in your February article. The larger community seeing non-traditional families as people—rather than as something other than us—is what gives us the ability to support families raising children.

I also question the implication that the lack of one mother plus one father equals an emotionally disturbed child. A more concrete cause for alienation is a society which claims that the situation one is born into is wrong.

As a parent in a "traditional" situation, I often wonder what gives me the right to parent. The first and most basic requirement is accepting and loving a unique individual just as they are.

Paula Bosque
Randall Street

An Enlightened Neighborhood

Editor:

I got warm all over reading about "Adventures in Househusbandry" in the February issue. Your totally comfortable reportage of a same-sex couple in an article on parenting is a model for journalists and other publications everywhere.

I feel fortunate to live in this enlightened neighborhood. I am childless (so far), but I know I always cast a special smile at the men behind the strollers. What lucky kids! And what lucky daddies!

Thank you for this delightful article.
Hester Lox
Dolores Street

Editor's Note: Hester Lox's letter was received after our March issue deadline but prior to the publication of Leslie Clark's controversial letter regarding the "househusbands" story. It was just one of several notes and phone calls thanking us for the piece. If you missed it, you might want to take a look at the February Voice, which is stored along with other back issues at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey Street.



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PUBLISHERS

Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Karol Barske, Jeff Kaliss, Charles Kennard,
Susan Kemp, Suzanne Scott, Jane Underwood

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Joel Abramson, Jeanne Alexander, Mantrage
Baum, Larry Beresford, Ed Bryn, Isabelle
Chomiere, Grace D'Anca, Mitchell Friedman, Rick
Garnier, Pamela Gerani, Thomas Glatys, Liana
Holland, Phoenice Holub, Warren Kaulenzig, Janet
Jacobs, Crystal Land, Addie Lanier, Geraldine
Lamer, Michele Lynn, Jami Mara, Denise Munro,
Scott Paterson, Mark Robinson, Stephen Rosenthal,
Roger Rubin, Jon Sindell, Steve Steinberg, Beverly
Tharp, Charlie Vason, Tom Wachis, Lorene Warwick,
Margo Weisz, Peter Weverka, Bill Yanil

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Open Letter to Bobby the Bard

Dear Mr. McFerrin:

I have a request to make. As a person of age (many summers), I have been serenaded by the same birthday song all this life. The tune is not melodic, it's hard to sing, and the lyrics are blah. With your considerable talents, sir, could you compose something nice and easy to sing—with a variety of lyrics (perhaps a set for children, another for teens, adults, seniors and grandparents) and with language variations (French, Spanish, etc.).

The possibilities are endless. For example: "On the day (eve, night) that you were born, a lovely spring morn, the sun came up in golden splendor, telling the world you were here/Now on this day each year, we'd like to tell you, dear, it's a happy day, your day so we serenade you with cheer/Happy Birthday, Happy Year."

I hope this will inspire you, sir. I'm tired of that same old song.

Kim Mercuri Bullis
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Impromptu Sidewalk Cafes

Coffee Klatches Warm up 24th Street Scene

By Margo Weisz

The European custom of taking a mid-afternoon break to drink a warm beverage is often envied in the U.S., where at 3 p.m. people are scrambling to finish their work and get the jump on rush-hour traffic.

Here in Noe Valley, however, the European custom has been adopted, at least by a few siesta-loving souls, in both the morning and afternoon. Neighborhood residents and workers alike have learned to slow their pace, nestle into a cherished patch of sunshine, and sip gourmet coffee—out on the sidewalks of 24th Street.

"Relaxing with a cup of coffee is our version of afternoon tea," says resident Paul Heye, a regular of the sidewalk coffee scene at the San Francisco Coffee Company, located between Church and Sanchez streets.

Derrek Wright, a morning person who frequents Spinelli's (next door to Bell Market), likes to "sit here and get my thoughts together before I jump into my day. It's a reality check before I head down to work in Silicon Valley."

Whether it's at 7 a.m. or 7 p.m., the appeal of relaxing with an aromatic cup of coffee is the same. People congregate to chat, read the paper, or meet other neighborhood residents.

Craig Sumberg, assistant publisher for *Tikkun* magazine, ventures out every morning because it gives him "a sense of being part of the community. I very rarely meet anybody I don't know up in my kitchen," he jokes.

Rudolph Russel works at Noe's Bar and likes "to come poke around the coffee places and see what's going on" when he has a break.

Despite the cliquish appearance of 24th Street's "cappuccino club," no exclusivity exists. Although many regulars have become friendly after sharing a bench day after day, newcomers to the coffee crowd are always mixed in with the old guard.

Local resident Linda Kingsbury looks forward to walking to 24th Street, doing her shopping, and then relaxing in the sun with a cup of java. Being outside, she says, makes it easier to bring her dog along on the outing, too.

Leslie Campbell "likes the European feeling" of coming down to 24th Street and "picking up bread and cheese and relaxing with some coffee." A self-proclaimed "people watcher," Campbell nurses her coffee, looks around, and muses, "People come in all shapes and sizes."

According to some aficionados, drinking coffee elsewhere in the city doesn't have the same charm as drinking coffee on a Noe Valley sidewalk. "Of all the areas in the city, this is the most personable. It's seldom that I don't exchange pleasantries with somebody," says Carey Bridgers, who journeys over from the Castro neighborhood.

Both coffee hubs—Spinelli's and the Coffee Company—have a devoted clientele. Coffee regulars comment as much about the wonderful coffee as they do about the amiable employees. One Spinelli's sipper, Chattahoochee, says his nickname was given to him by the store's staff. "I like the people who



Noe Valley's caffeinated (and de-caffeinated) cogniscenti meet to share sunshine and gossip outside Spinelli's on 24th Street.
PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.

work here—they are incredible, charming people."

To Sonny Vlamis, who works for the public health department, Spinelli's is a "real California place," which attracts a mixed bag of coffee tasters. Spinelli's employee Sean Rouse agrees. "All types of people hang out here—blue-collar, white-collar, and sometimes groups of

high school students."

The San Francisco Coffee Company is renowned for its family atmosphere. Young children accompany their parents here at almost all times of the day. The family feeling is encouraged by Coffee Company owner Martha Monroy, whose own extended family works behind the counter. Her kids, brother, nephews, and

mother all have a hand in the business.


Although Campbell speaks for several sidewalk addicts when she notes that she is "tired of sitting on the porch—I wish they had tables like in Paris," complaints seem to be few and far between. Most people just express a desire for more of a good thing.

A few also mention a frustration with the fact that, in Noe Valley, bars replace the coffee hangouts at night. "There is nothing in the evening that lends itself to the bohemian scene," laments Chattahoochee, a first-year law student at New College of California.

But during the daytime, says Phaedra Edwards, an employee at Rabat Shoes, "Coffee on 24th Street is a big scene." And with the coming of spring, we will undoubtedly see an increase in the crowds as Noe Valley partakes of its favorite nectar. □



Jessica Benjamin, who works nearby at Holey Bagel, enjoys a break in front of the San Francisco Coffee Company. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.



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Homelessness

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camp in the doorway next to her shop.

"We had a family there three weeks ago, all morning until noon—a mother, a father, and a child," she said.

McLeod is sympathetic to the children and to those who are hungry. But she is growing bitter about the panhandlers, mostly young men, who aggressively demand money from both her and her customers. "It's gotten to be obnoxious," said McLeod.

She started offering to buy them food from the delicatessen nearby. "I'd say, 'Go get a sandwich and some soup and I'll pay for it.' But no one ever took me up on it," she said.

She does, however, give money to one large man who comes in. "I'm afraid of him," she said.

Otherwise, when a street person stands in front of her shop asking for money for very long, she gets out her broom or mop and begins to zealously clean the sidewalk. That gets them moving along.

The rise in the number of street people in Noe Valley is frequently a topic of conversation in Caruso's. McLeod finds that many of her customers give them money. "They feel that they're a little better off and they want to help them [the panhandlers] out," she said. "I talked to one lady who folds up dollar bills and puts them in her pocket to hand out when she goes shopping."

But McLeod sees the issue differently. "I just shake my head," said the liquor store owner. "Because I know what some of them do with the money."

McLeod is right, according to Perillo. "I don't advocate giving money," she said. "With most panhandlers, substance abuse of alcohol or drugs is at the root of their problems. When you give money, you're often helping support their addiction."

With older women, the cause of their poverty is not as often drug or alcohol addiction, admits Perillo. But even in that case, she recommends giving clothing or food rather than money.

"If you're in doubt as to what they do with the money—ask. Talk to them, they're people," said Perillo. "People query organizations before giving money. Why shouldn't they use the same guidelines for panhandlers?"

Talking to a panhandler or homeless person can help in other ways, too. "It's



One of the neighborhood's growing legions of street people forages for aluminum cans in a garbage receptacle at 24th and Noe.
PHOTO BY ED BURYN

important to break through the barrier of solitude," Perillo said, adding that these people often feel so isolated from society that they have a hard time taking the steps necessary to get off the street. Perillo knows of one Noe Valley resident who made friends with a homeless man and eventually took him into his home.

Usually the first step for addicts, she said, is enrolling in a program for alcohol detoxification, methadone maintenance, or some other substance abuse service. The next step is to get shelter and job counseling. It is critical to reach people before they've been on the street longer than two years, she said, "because they still remember what it's like to be part of regular society."

"The two-year figure is something told to me by panhandlers, a number they use within their own circle," said Perillo. "They use it as a bottom line—a flag—to push themselves to get off the street before that time is up."

Perillo is in contact with a number of agencies and shelters. They give her weekly updates on vacancies and services they have available, and she passes this on to the people she meets on the street.

Taking a regional approach to the

issue, the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez Street is working on the mayor's interfaith task force on homelessness. Some churches on the task force participate by offering shelter, and others, such as the Ministry, collect food for those staying in the shelters, said minister Carl Smith.

One local merchant, Rami Sternfeld of Rami's Caffe at 1361 Church Street, is planning an April 21 benefit brunch to help the homeless. All proceeds will go to the St. Martin de Porres House at 225 Potrero Avenue, which daily serves free breakfast and lunch to the poor.

Sternfeld has still another project to help the homeless in mind, one which would specifically benefit those in Noe Valley. Since there is food left over in his restaurant after each meal, he said he would like to box it up and distribute it between shifts. Those who need food could be screened by a homeless agency that would give them vouchers, and with those vouchers they could come pick up the food, he suggested.

Sternfeld noted that one organization, Project Open Hand, already takes left-over food from restaurants and distributes it to the needy. Rami's extra food

might do the most good through that program, he said. But he still wants to investigate the voucher idea, and see if he can get other Noe Valley restaurateurs interested as well.

"We need more information from those who deal with the homeless to tell us whether this is workable or not," he said. "Whatever we end up doing, there's one thing I know. There's more than enough food for people to eat in this town. It's crazy that anyone should go hungry." □



Restaurateur Rami Sternfeld will hold a homeless benefit brunch this month. He also wants to find a way to donate excess food to the needy. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

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Living on the Street: One Homeless Person's Perspective

Editor's Note: Gary, 32, was a computer programmer before he joined the ranks of the homeless in 1988. For the past year he has become an almost daily fixture on 24th Street, moving from one location to another, asking people politely for money.

On February 3, Gary was interviewed at Exotic's Donut Shop, at Church and 24th streets, by Voice reporter Addie Lanier. He declined to give his last name because he intends to return to work.

Gary speaks with an articulateness that few people associate with the homeless, whose increasing numbers—even in peaceful "upscale" Noe Valley—remind us that this is a problem that affects us all. His story follows.

I have kind of made this neighborhood my home base. Most people believe that the homeless like to live on the streets. . . . And that's a total misconception.

First of all, there's been a reduction of services since the earthquake. A lot of the homeless hotels were damaged. Even before the earthquake, you'd have to show up at five in the morning and wait for three hours, only to find out, "Oh, I'm sorry. We're full. Try next time."

I'm not sure but I think they entirely shut down what they call the "Hotline Hotels" project, which was a way to get a roof over your head for a short period of time. For every slot in a shelter,

"The modern welfare system is all wrong. They make it hard to get assistance at first, but then once you get on, you're on for life."

there's 10 people waiting for it, and the shelters themselves are no solution anyway. Going to a shelter has a bad feel to it. It's like you're surrendering your independence. You surrender your possessions. They take your clothes and they dress you up in pajamas. So while you're in there, you're in institutional garb. A shelter has nothing to do with ordinary living. It's like a voluntary prison, really.

Living on the street, I almost feel like I'm still leading a normal life, because I still go out and try and get some money together during the day, just as if I were going to do a job, even though I'm actually panhandling. And then I get to decide how to spend that money. So I'm living an independent life that still has the same rhythm to it, it's just on a lower economic scale.

When I first moved to San Francisco



Gary, a former computer programmer, has become a familiar panhandler along 24th Street. In early February, he talked with Voice reporter Addie Lanier about his painful slide into job- and homelessness. PHOTO BY ED BURN

about five years ago, I had a job. I was working as a programmer/analyst. I was doing pretty well, money-wise. I think, though, that then I was a bit of a lonely person. . . . I never really established a lot of personal contacts.

Slightly over a year ago, I was doing contract work—that's short-term, sort of ad hoc employment. The company had no obligation to me as an employee, so there came a time when the contract ended, and I was put out. I wasn't eligible for any kind of unemployment insurance. And I was slow in getting back into the job market because of other little personal crises that were going on at the time. I was kind of in a state of depression, and I let things slide too long.

I lost my apartment. Then I lived in a camper van that I had. It was a pretty nice little camper. But when that got vandalized, I wasn't able to move it, and it got towed away. I wasn't able to get it out of tow because I didn't have enough money, so I lost everything that was in it. I also had a lot of possessions stored in a storage box, and the rent lapsed on that. So basically just in quick succession I lost everything that I had.

I suddenly found that . . . the way I am now, it's virtually impossible to get a job in my occupation, because I can't present myself professionally and successfully. And they buy that—they buy success.

When I first had this problem, I

called on my family, and they basically felt that it was my fault. They felt that if they helped me, it would only encourage me to slack off or something, so they didn't help me. I don't talk to them much.

In one way, being out on the street was a liberating experience for me. Before, I was working just out of fear of living on the street. I didn't have a family to support or anything. Now I've learned that it's not that much to fear. I can still survive.

You make a significant emotional decision when you decide you're going to panhandle. It's a real break from how you previously saw yourself. It's a blow to the ego, and it's hard to address people from that perspective. But it is, of course, something you get used to.

When I first started panhandling, I kind of approached it like acting. I've heard that actors use little props to help them adopt a personality, like maybe a piece of clothing or something they'll carry with them. So I have my props too. One of them is just having a coin in my hand. That coin in my hand is the little prop I need to adopt the panhandling personality. I say the same thing in about 30 different ways, just jumble the words around: "Do you have a little change you could spare? Change you can spare? Can you spare some change?" Sometimes when I haven't had any money, I've picked up a bottle cap and pretended it's a coin.

Panhandling is pretty much a full-

time occupation. It requires a full-time dedication. You have to look a certain way—not that I have the option. These are my only clothes. I don't have a mirror to primp in front of every morning, but even if I did, it would be detrimental for me to do so as long as I'm depending on panhandling for my source of income. To get a regular job, you want to look clean and neat and all spiffed up, but to continue to survive as a panhandler, you have to look miserable.

At one point I had 30 different applications out for mental jobs, but I never got any response at all. There should be an employment service for homeless people. You could go in, sign up, and they would help you prepare a resume or application, mail it out, use their address and their phone, and whenever they would answer the phone, they'd say "Hello," and pretend that it's your home. We could check in every day to see if there was a nibble. And on the day of your interview, you could go in, shower, and get clean clothes. Maybe [they could] even provide some kind of transportation service to get you to the interview.

But even when you do get a job, you don't get paid for at least two weeks, so how do you support yourself in the meantime? If you're cleaned up so you can go to the job, then you can't panhandle. That's why you need at least two months of full unequivocal support to get back into the job market.

The modern welfare system is all wrong. They make it hard to get assistance at first, but then once you get on, you're on for life. There should be a social services department that is really interested in dealing with people's problems. The Department of Social Services here is run like a circus. Their deliberate intent is to try and keep people out of the building as much as possible. Presumably they want to weed out the casual applicant who doesn't

"To get a regular job, you want to look clean and all spiffed up, but to continue to survive as a panhandler, you have to look miserable."

really need help. But in this case, it's backfired, because I'm sure they're weeding out a lot of people who do need help, but who just can't deal with the process.

In any other situation where you have a one-on-one appointment arrangement, like at a doctor's office, the clients are scheduled at different spots over the day, with a little bit of overlap built in. . . . but not at the Department of Social Services. Out of their 2,000 or so clients they see every day, they have to schedule them all at exactly the same time.

And then they have to screen everybody who enters the building for possible weapons. They use a metal detector, but it's not like ordinary metal detectors which will let you go through with your keys or something small. They have the sensitivity on this thing cranked on full, so that if you go through—this is hon-

Continued on Page 6

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Recycle at the Curb

Continued from Page 1

San Francisco's recycling coordinator. "It's already a big success, with a participation rate of over 70 percent."

During the first week of April, Noe Valley residents will receive a sturdy blue recycling bin (one per household), along with a full set of instructions on how to recycle. They will be asked to deposit bottles and cans in the bin, which will be picked up once a week by a special truck, on the same day that garbage is picked up.

Recycling officials recommend that bins be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. on garbage collection mornings (instead of the night before) to help prevent theft and litter. Perlmutter said the bins were chosen after being carefully "hill-tested" to ensure they wouldn't slide away.

Residents will also receive a paper recycling "starter kit," consisting of a paper bag—all that is necessary to recycle newspapers and other paper products.

Perlmutter notes that most community recycling systems take only bundled newspapers and sorted bottles and cans, but San Francisco's system allows residents to mix together aluminum, tin, steel, glass and plastic. Paper items such as newspapers, junk mail, cereal boxes, and magazines can also be tied together or placed in the paper bag.

"This system is designed for the convenience of the resident," said Perlmutter. "You can recycle just about anything without sorting."

According to Perlmutter, the city's recycling program came about because San Francisco was running out of space for its garbage.

"San Francisco currently sends its garbage over 50 miles away to a landfill in Alameda County. Recycling not only saves energy resources and cuts down on pollution, it also reclaims valuable materials which would otherwise end up in that landfill," she said. "By making it easier to recycle, we hope to involve those individuals who haven't started recycling yet."

Barbara French, of Chattanooga Street, is one person who plans to get more involved in recycling because of the curbside program. Spotted doing her recycling at Bell Market, she said, "When curbside starts, I'm sure I'll use it. It will be better for the environment because more things will be recycled. And right now it's too hard to recycle things like tin."

The curbside program is being implemented in four phases. Bart Carr, operations manager for Sunset Scavenger, claims that "during phase one of the curbside program, we successfully diverted about 15 percent of the materials that would have gone to landfill."

This fall, the western part of the city will join in, and by spring of 1991 the entire city will be recycling curbside. The program is currently limited to dwellings of six units or less—apartment buildings with more than six units will be phased in this summer.

Volunteers are also being recruited to act as curbside recycling block leaders who will distribute information about recycling, monitor recycling activities on the block, and inform new neighbors about the program. (For information on becoming a block leader, call Debra Kaufman at 554-4331. For more general information about the curbside recycling program, call 330-CURB.)

Though most residents are thrilled with the new service, some community leaders have expressed concern about the

Give Us Your Bottles, Cans, and Newspapers

Noe Valley offers recycling options in addition to curbside recycling (see story, page 1). Several schools and markets—and at least one community recycling group—sponsor daily or weekend recycling, or hold regular pickups in and around the neighborhood.

Don't forget to separate your recyclables (e.g., glass from paper). And it's important to rinse out all food and beverage containers.

Bell Market
3950 24th Street
24 hours a day

Collection machines for cans, plastic soda bottles, and glass bottles are located in the parking lot, next to the right entrance to Bell. These machines are like reverse vending machines: you insert your recyclables in the slot and the machine refunds your money (five cents for each container 24 ounces or larger, five cents for every two containers under 24 ounces).

Market Street Safeway
2020 Market at Church
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
285-0669

Coordinated by San Francisco Community Recyclers, a non-profit group, this site (in the parking lot) accepts aluminum cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic soda bottles, steel hi-metal cans, and newspapers. Contributors can either receive money for their recyclables or donate the proceeds to non-profit organizations such as the Shanti Project, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, or S.F. Community Recyclers. Payment depends on the material being recycled; newspaper isn't bought back but is accepted as a donation.

Diamond Heights Safeway
5290 Diamond Heights Boulevard
Tuesday through Saturday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
621-3840

At the Recycling Buy-Back trailer parked in a corner of the parking lot, an attendant will weigh your pre-sorted glass, cans, and plastic soda bottles, and hand you a voucher, redeemable for cash at the Diamond Heights Safeway. (Rates per pound are 65 cents for aluminum, from 1 to 5 cents for glass, 35 cents for plastic, and 13 cents for hi-metal.) Or you can ask that your money be donated to either the Shanti Project, California

Relief, Raphael House, or San Francisco Friends of the Urban Forest.

Bernal Recycling Center
100 Alemany Boulevard
(behind the Farmer's Market)
Daily, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., or
night drop-off bins
282-0364

This non-profit recycling center, established in 1972, accepts glass, newspapers, cardboard, plastic soda bottles, junk mail, and mixed paper. The money goes to various Bernal Heights community groups, including the center, and to Coming Home Hospice. Bernal Recycling also provides monthly pickups at the corner of Castro and Clipper streets. (This month's pickup will take place on Earth Day, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

St. Paul's School
Upper schoolyard on 29th Street
(near Church)
Bi-monthly, second Saturday

The next recycling drive is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to noon. St. Paul's accepts aluminum cans, and glass separated by color. The money raised benefits the school's athletic program. For more information, call Jill or Andy Alcantar at 586-8911.

St. Philip's School
Parking lot on 24th Street
between Castro and Diamond
Anytime
824-2158

St. Philip's accepts aluminum cans placed in garbage bags in the school's parking lot (next to St. Philip's Market). The money raised from recycling goes to the school's general fund.

Mission High School
3750 18th Street (in the schoolyard;
enter on Church or Dolores)
Second Saturday of the month
8:30 a.m. to noon

A student-run club organizes this recycling drive, which collects aluminum cans, paper, cardboard, glass, newspapers, and plastic soda bottles. The proceeds go to support outdoor activities, such as ski trips and campouts, for the students involved. Founded in 1973 by Alan Scrogie, currently a teacher at Roosevelt Middle School, the program is now operated by high school students from throughout the public school system.

—Michele Lynn

awarding of the curbside contract to the garbage companies.

Miriam Blaustein, a Noe Valley community activist and current coordinator of the Mission High School recycling program, says, "I would like to see the city completely responsible for recycling without having a private company involved. Garbage pick-up and recycling are both public services which should be in the hands of the government."

Perlmutter points out, however, that Sunset Scavenger and Golden Gate Disposal were selected "because they have a history of reliable and efficient service to San Francisco residents."

"People need to realize that this program requires a significant outlay of money and staff resources. Even though

the recyclable materials will be sold, the profits will not cover the costs of buying and operating the trucks or of sorting and processing the recyclable materials. All revenues... will be put back into the program to help keep the costs down."

While there is currently no cost to participate in the program, there will be a charge to all garbage service customers about a year after their curbside service begins. City staff estimate that the cost of the program will be approximately \$1 a month per resident, which is comparable to that of other cities with curbside programs.

"Since recycling benefits everyone by extending the life of our landfill and keeping garbage rates lower, everyone will pay regardless of whether or not

Gary's Story

Continued from Page 5

estly true, it happened to me—with a foil gum wrapper in your pocket, it sets this thing off. Can you believe that? So virtually every person who goes through there gets searched, because everybody sets the machine off. The eyelets on your shoes will set it off.

Everyone's scheduled at one, but no one gets in until two, then you wait around until five, and they say, "Come back tomorrow." You have to go through the metal detector three times to get your application filed. And then when you do finally get to see a worker, they bug you about things like, "How do we know that you live in the city? Do you have some address that we can check on?"

They should make it easy to get immediate help, say for a month or two, and then wean you off. But that's provided they give you the time to go out and look for the jobs—because another thing they do is they make you fill out these job search forms.

Basically you have to put down the name of a place where you applied for a position, and they call to find out if it's true or not. Now right away they're nixing that place as a potential employer for you, because who's going to employ you if the day after you've interviewed, somebody from Social Services calls up and says, "This guy is applying for welfare and he says that he applied for a job at your place. Is that true?"

What they should do is loan you enough money for food, clothing, travel expenses, and a decent place to live, instead of some dive where they don't even have phone service—and leave you alone for the first month or so.

When this first happened to me, it was coming on summer. I kind of viewed sleeping in the park like camping out. But I don't want to give you the impression that it's all just a carnival here on the streets. I definitely am tired of it, every night actually, when I wake up shivering from the cold. But I sometimes have the notion that you've got to make hay while the sun shines. I just follow a routine: wake up, come to work, have something to eat, maybe go to the library for a while.

Lately I've been studying Roman history. I go to the Mission branch because the Noe Valley Library has only two books on the topic—sum total of two. The contemporary Roman historians, like Livy and Suetonius and Polybius, are very interesting. These were people who were part of the Roman empire and wondered if the empire was going to last forever. You get a real sense of what it was like then because they were writing to their own audience, other Romans.

The Roman empire was a lot like America. There are a lot of parallels. □

they recycle," says Perlmutter.

She adds that even though it is estimated that the average household could recycle over 80 pounds of material a month, curbside recycling is just one component of an overall waste management strategy.

"People have to begin 'pre-cycling,' or reducing the amount of waste generated, and making buying decisions based on a product's recyclability and materials. Only then can we have a lasting effect on the garbage problem." □

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Paper or Plastic?

Continued from Page 1

In a phone interview a month ago, Thielen said no decision to add paper had been reached, but the matter was under consideration. She added that Walgreens "shares the neighborhood's concern with environmental issues," but chose to use plastic bags because they cost significantly less than paper. A shift to paper bags would mean higher prices for Walgreens' customers, she pointed out.

Thielen also noted that the plastic bags used at Walgreens are "photodegradable," that is, designed to degrade upon exposure to sunlight. ("Biodegradable" plastic requires only moisture and oxygen for decomposition to occur. But consumers should be aware that whether the plastic is photodegradable or biodegradable, it will decompose only if sufficient amounts of sunlight, moisture, or oxygen can reach it. In today's densely packed landfills, this is often impossible.)

In contrast to Walgreens, Bell Market, on 24th between Sanchez and Noe, offers customers a choice between paper and (photodegradable) plastic bags. Bell manager Stan Lau says the policy reflects the fact that some of the store's many pedestrian shoppers prefer the convenience of plastic bags.

Bell's checkers seem to do a pretty good job of observing this policy, so much so that the refrain "Paper or plastic?" may be permanently burned on their brains.

"I was fixing a sandwich for my 5-year-old daughter recently," commented checker Monica Curran, "and I asked her if she wanted paper or plastic, rather than white or wheat!"

Bell is considering offering discounts to customers who bring their own bags from home, which will be good news to the five or 10 percent of Bell's customers who, according to Curran, already do so.

For years, Bell's across-the-street rival, the Real Food Company, has encouraged its customers to bring bags from home. That's because the store recognizes that while paper may be preferable to plastic, it is far from being environmentally perfect. Even though paper



Noe Valley residents Susan Backmon (right) and Tiki Geffen, with son Noble and baby Peter, found uses for both paper and plastic bags on a neighborhood shopping venture last month.
PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD

decomposes, the process takes a long time in overburdened landfills. What's more, as a bulletin posted on a Real Food register explains, a single tree produces only 28 bags annually, or a paltry 700 bags in a lifetime.

"Sure, paper is better than plastic," says Real Food employee Jane Peal, "but the best alternative is using your own bag."

Peal added that Real Food checkers, who automatically use paper unless a customer specifies otherwise, will soon

be rewarding shoppers who don't ask for bags by giving out nickels (details have yet to be determined).

That will be line with Real Food customer Linda Perez, who says, "I support recycling," and jokes that she will recycle her Real Food nickels in Reno.

Store manager Gary Zoratti observed that Real Food would like to dispense with its non-degradable plastic bags entirely, but offers them in deference to the many customers who walk to the store and appreciate the handles.

The convenience of plastic bags is also one reason Thrifty Jr., at 4045 24th Street, offers both paper and plastic. Thrifty Jr. manager Richard O'Leary explained that the Thrifty chain originally offered paper bags only, but added plastic out of consideration for the elderly, as well as stroller-encumbered mothers like Noe Valley resident Marge Murphy, who usually expresses "a strong preference" for paper bags, but sometimes requests plastic "so that I can drape the handle over my stroller."

O'Leary ascribed the neighborhood preference for paper to "typical yuppie customers who don't want anything to do with plastic at all." To cater to this craving, O'Leary asks his salesclerks to give shoppers a choice.

At Phoenix Books & Records, on 24th near Vicksburg, owner Kate Rosenberger recently made the decision to switch from plastic to paper bags, despite the higher cost of paper. Rosenberger noted that plastic "is manufactured with petroleum, a non-renewable resource." She also pointed out that "if a small business like ours is willing to spend the extra money to stock paper bags, the national chain stores should be able to, too."

The plastic versus paper controversy also spills over to the take-out cups used by coffeehouses. Of the three neighborhood coffee stores surveyed, Spinelli Coffee Company alone uses paper cups only, on the grounds, says manager Eric Gustafson, that paper is "good for the environment because it degrades," unlike polystyrene foam.

San Francisco Coffee Company owner Martha Monroy also stocks paper cups "because nowadays people are concerned with the environment," but the store offers plastic cups as well.

The Holey Bagel bucks the trend completely by offering only styrofoam, although owner Gary Goldstein says that his customers request paper cups "quite a bit," for which reason he may look into using paper. Goldstein notes, however, that his decision will be influenced by economics, since paper cups are "hard to find" and "real expensive."

In the meantime, ecology-minded consumers might want to pack a thermos—along with the grocery carryall—on their next shopping excursion to 24th Street. □

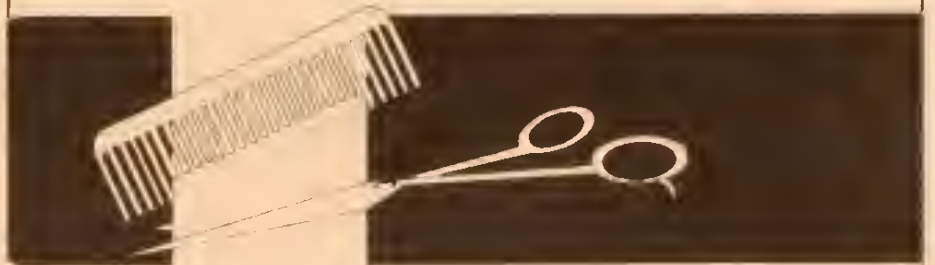


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PAWS for People Who Need a Helping Hand

By Crystal Lund

Noe Valley resident Tom Cosgrove's dog, Dotty, and cat, Bandit, have been a continual source of support for him during his struggle with AIDS. But when he started experiencing financial difficulties due to high hospital bills, he wasn't sure how he was going to afford to keep his animals. Then a friend told him about PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), an organization that helps people who are HIV-positive enjoy the companionship of their pets.

PAWS provided Cosgrove with a supply of food for his animals and found a new home for one of his two cats. "They were very, very nice. I thought that this was one organization I wanted to help when I was feeling better," Cosgrove said later.

As he regained his strength, Cosgrove eventually did become a volunteer and currently spends eight to 10 hours each month delivering pet food or soliciting financial support for the organization. Cosgrove is grateful to PAWS, he says, because "they enabled me to keep my pets. Pets can be our only support, and they give unconditional love when we become ill. They really are our caregivers."

Located at Clipper and Sanchez streets in the basement of Bethany Methodist Church, PAWS began 2½ years ago when a group of eight people realized that their HIV-positive friends clearly needed their pets, but were having trouble caring for them.

George McCauslan, a neighborhood resident since 1978 and president of the PAWS board, was a member of this initial group. "We originally started through the AIDS Foundation," he says, "but special services such as ours got lost in a large organization."

PAWS officially incorporated in October of 1987, but by the end of that year had only 15 clients. According to McCauslan, the organization survived "hand-to-mouth for a while," but additional funding started to emerge in 1988. By May of that year, he says, "We received a big financial boost of \$18,500 from the AIDS Bike-a-Thon, and we've been growing ever since."



After a short walk for exercise, volunteer Lisa Kossiver returns chow chow Cervana to PAWS client Calvin Roberts. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

As PAWS expanded, McCauslan and the board realized the need for a permanent home for the organization. The current office space in Bethany Church was selected for several reasons.

"It was ideal," notes McCauslan, "because my office is one block away, and three members of the original board lived in Noe Valley. We also wanted a Noe Valley location because parking was easier here than in the Castro, and with all of our deliveries, that was important. Finally, the church had the space, and they really supported what we were doing."

Today PAWS has 250 clients and 500 volunteers living all over the Bay Area, and the range of support services has grown to include transporting animals to the vet, finding temporary homes for pets, and walking dogs.

According to office administrator Leah Talley, "We are working on building our community education programs too. This includes educating people with HIV disease on ways to minimize the risk of catching a disease from their pet, and providing physicians and veterinarians with up-to-date information on precautions their HIV-positive patients should take."

Talley explains that some physicians

instruct their HIV-positive patients to get rid of all pets, especially cats, because of the risk of infection from animal diseases. Cats are an additional risk because the toxoplasmosis virus, a harmful virus that can be contracted by persons with AIDS, can develop in cat feces. Yet Talley adds that "with a few simple precautions, it is easy to reduce the risks involved."

One of the community education projects is a brochure entitled "Safe Pet Guidelines," which details what an HIV-positive person must do to safely keep a pet. Topics include pet diet, hygiene, and litter box care.

Talley also emphasizes that "animals cannot contract AIDS and transmit it to other animals or people."

Since its inception, PAWS has inspired many local residents to donate their time. Lisa Kossiver, who lives at 25th and Church, works in the PAWS office on Fridays and walks a client's dog each week. Why does she do it? "I have a heart for people with AIDS, and I have a heart for animals, so it works for me."

A Noe Valley couple, Paula Ercoli and Marla Shelmadine, live across the street from PAWS and started volunteering after working for the Shanti

Project, another AIDS support organization. Ercoli and Shelmadine spend two Saturdays a month delivering pet food. "We love animals, and PAWS is nice because it helps people with AIDS and it helps the animals too."

As PAWS expands, however, more financial support will be needed. Talley notes, PAWS receives its funding primarily from individuals, the AIDS Bike-a-Thon, and other special events. During this past year, the group acquired grants from Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, the Horizon Foundation, and General Electric.

PAWS also received a donation of 900 cases of cat food from the Carnation Company. "We always are in need of volunteers, donations, foster and permanent homes for pets, and storage space for pet supplies," Talley said.

As long as the organization gets enough pats on the back, the future for PAWS looks good. Talley and McCauslan even plan to help other cities start their own PAWS programs. "After all," Talley concludes, "when so many people can turn against you, your pets are so important."

To learn more about getting involved with Pets Are Wonderful Support, call 824-4040. □

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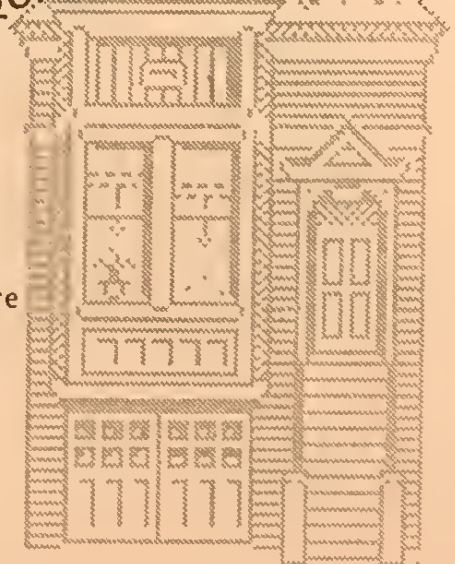
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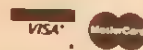
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A Jury of Their Peers

Teen Offenders Can Opt for Youth Court

By Warren Karlenzig

Beginning on April 19, in Glen Park and southern Noe Valley (south of Army Street), teenage lawbreakers will have the option of being tried for their offenses in Youth Court, a program sponsored by San Francisco Safety Awareness for Everyone (S.F. SAFE).

First-time offenders with no gang affiliations will be able to choose between taking their case through the normal juvenile justice system, or through a "youth court" composed of peers who act as judges, jury members, attorneys, probation officers, and court clerks.

Noe Valley's Southern Neighborhoods Youth Court falls under the jurisdiction of the Ingleside Police District and is modeled after a similar program—the first of its kind in San Francisco—in the Richmond District, instituted, in February of last year.

"The whole process encourages the kids who are on the court to learn so much," said Marcia DeHart, a Glen Park resident who is overseeing the program for S.F. SAFE. "It forces them to learn on a level at which they're just not usually involved."

All area teens (ages 12 to 17) are invited to participate, she said, "and that includes kids from places as diverse as the Alemany projects and St. Francis Woods."

Sentencing through Youth Court includes essay-writing, formal apologies to victims, counseling, restitution, and public service such as maintenance of trails in Glen Park Canyon. DeHart encourages area residents and businesses to suggest other possible public service projects.



Telephonic Tangle

A crazy web of wires connects 23rd Street with the rest of the civilized world. PHOTO BY ED BURN

Of the 30 youth courts now in operation nationwide, said DeHart, all have had remarkable success rates. In the Richmond, out of 42 defendants during the first six months, only three have been picked up for second offenses. And in Danville, only two percent of offenders have been arrested again (in contrast to recidivism rates ranging from 50 to 90 percent in the traditional court system).

DeHart said San Francisco police and city officials had been very supportive of the program, and she hoped to see it spread citywide.

Adult volunteers are currently being

recruited to serve on an advisory board for the Southern Neighborhoods Youth Court, to be made up of community members, Ingleside police, juvenile probation department members, and local school officials. The board will oversee sentencing and help administer funding and courtroom space.

The opening session for the Southern Neighborhoods Youth Court will be held on April 19, at 4 p.m., in a City Hall courtroom. For more information, contact DeHart at 586-1735; Pat Bell at S.F. SAFE, 553-1984; or stop by the S.F. SAFE offices at the Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant Street. □

Youth Murder in Glen Park

By Warren Karlenzig

A 17-year-old boy was fatally shot near his home on Addison Street last month in an apparent drug-related incident, according to police reports.

The youth died the morning after the shooting, February 10, of a gunshot wound to the head. San Francisco Police Inspector Frank McCoy said the department had arrested a suspect in connection with the murder.

The shooting occurred at 10 p.m. on the 100 block of Addison Street, located in the upper reaches of Glen Park, east of Diamond Heights Boulevard.

According to the police report, the victim and four friends were standing outside when a two-door grey Nissan drove up and stopped. The driver got out and asked the five youths who was selling drugs. When the teenagers answered that they had no drugs and said they were members of the "Addison Street Boys," the interloper pulled a gun and began chasing one of their group down the block, shouting threats along the way. The victim was climbing a gate when the suspect shot him once in the head.

The victim was taken by ambulance to the trauma center at San Francisco General Hospital, where he died the next morning.

Witnesses said two other people were in the car the suspect was driving at the time of the incident. Inspector McCoy said at press time, however, that only one juvenile had been arrested in connection with the case. □



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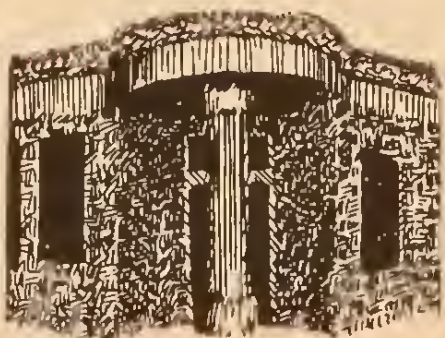
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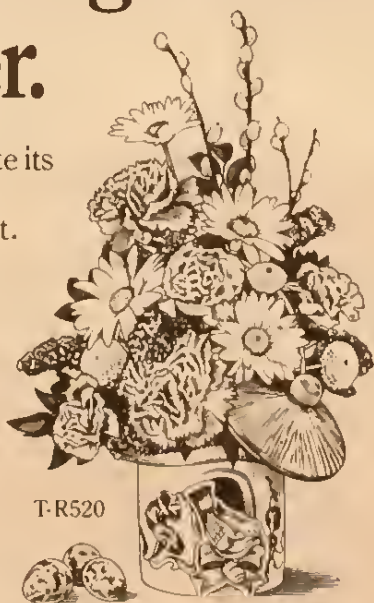
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Listening to Lori: KITS's Morning Star

By Jeff Kaliss

"If I have a maxim in life," says Lori Thompson, "it's grace under pressure."

That says a lot about the witty 29-year-old who served as sidekick to three morning men at KITS-FM and outlasted all of them to become one of the country's only female "drive-time" deejays. Many of Thompson's afternoon off-hours are now spent in her newly adopted Noe Valley neighborhood—at her 28th Street apartment, with her friends at Phoenix Books on 24th Street, or at the Dubliner, where she granted this interview to one of her long-time fans.

But the pressure at the KITS studio at Ninth and Market streets has at times been high enough to have crushed a less stalwart soul. For nearly four years, Thompson sat at the right hand of Alex Bennett and Perry Stone, two of the most controversial radio personalities ever to shock Bay Area airwaves.

Bennett and Stone seem strange bed-fellows for a woman who was raised as a Pentecostal in the Midwest. But Thompson has known that she wanted to be a "communicator" since she was a school kid in Clinton, Illinois, a couple of hours south of Chicago.

"I was a chubby girl with a real low sense of self-esteem," claims Thompson, the eldest of three girls whose mother, she says, pressured them to achieve. "I knew I was smart, but I felt like I was dumb socially."

Thompson turned to school theatrics to build up her confidence. She gained her trademark smoky alto voice shortly after puberty, and her ability to think quickly and in detail was developed during Pentecostal Bible quizzes.

She finished high school in 3½ years and spent a few months in a theater school, despite the disapproval of her career-minded mother. Thompson then transferred to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and immediately auditioned for a spot on the student radio station.

"It was like someone looked in your head and then invented something they knew you'd be good at and gave it to you," she recalls of the experience. "It was like a chance to be a grown-up kid. It was great."

While still in college, Thompson landed her first commercial job at a Carbondale country station, and moved on to a rock station a month later. Sensing bigger things ahead, she arranged for a visit



From the studio of "Live 105," deejay Lori Thompson brightens the mornings of thousands of Bay Area listeners. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD

to KDHR in St. Louis, the nearest big city. And she made a big splash.

"It was all guys, silly radio boys, but we hit it off," she recalls. "I asked the P.D. [program director Boh Garrett]. 'What do you look for when you hire people?', and he gave me a four-point outline.

"One is, when you open that microphone, take a genuine interest in what you're talking about, because if you're not interested, don't expect anyone else to be. Second, don't be afraid to mock yourself a little bit. Thirdly, be concise. And the last one, when that mike goes on, try to summon up the image that you're having more fun than you've ever had in your life."

So well did Thompson match Garrett's guidelines that he hired her a few weeks later. Within a year Garrett relocated to San Francisco and KITS, and invited his protégée to join him in 1984.

"I knew that staying in St. Louis was going to be kind of futile," says Thompson. "So my little sister drove me out here. . . . When we first drove over the Bay Bridge, I remember being so excited. I turned to her and said, 'Julie, I'm going to live here, this is one of the coolest cities ever, look at it!'"

Thompson at first lived in Pacific Heights with a lawyer ("in a platonic way") and spent her spare time getting acquainted with the city's night life on Union Street, in North Beach, and South of Market. She had plenty of company. "I think a lot of people migrated here and made a silent oath to avoid the unkindnesses they found in other places," she observes.

At KITS, she started as a nighttime "jock" and was later moved to the morning slot as newswoman alongside deejay Ed Volkman in a low-key Top 40 format. In 1986, KITS rescheduled Volkman to a later slot and moved in Bennett in an attempt to attract more listeners.

Bennett, a Bay Area native in his late 40s, had already achieved legendary status during his past stints in New York, and locally on KMEL and KQAK. He demanded complete creative control over his own show, which had always been low on music and high on observational comments, and included celebrity guests and a live studio audience.

"If Alex had pressed, he could have brought in Joe Regelsky [his newswoman from KQAK], but he said, 'Let's give this girl a try,'" notes Thompson. "Plus, it sounded good—this Midwestern chick with this irascible Jewish guy."

KITS saw its ratings climb, enhanced by a switch from Top 40 to a modern rock format (a mix of popular but innovative recordings by groups like the Talking Heads and Depeche Mode, plus lesser known imports and exotic oldies).

Loyal Bennett fans quickly embraced Thompson, one of the few media minds quick and confident enough to keep up on-the-air with Bennett and his gang of visiting stand-up comedians, for whom the show was an improvisational arena and invaluable promotional aid. Dialogue between Bennett and Thompson crackled with cleverness, amusing listeners and the overflowing live audience.

Thompson also joined Bennett as emcee of his gala live broadcasts from

hotel lounges, Bay cruise ships, and other exotic locations. She accompanied him on junkets to New York and Los Angeles (from which the show was beamed back by satellite), and hosted the show during his absences.

"He was so much like my mom, in that on the surface they both appear to be ultimately competent people who never have a questioning moment," says Thompson. But off the air, the somewhat misogynistic Bennett demonstrated some suspicion of his talented newswoman.

"I think he perceived that I had an ulterior motive, like I wanted his job," she reflects. "But I never wanted his job, ever." In fact, Thompson says, she looked upon the older media star as a role model and a refreshing alternative to "cottage cheese" morning men.

"When he was feeling bad about himself, he could be vicious," she admits. "But I would gladly take those days for all the other days when he would challenge me and make me read and know what I was talking about and phrase it eloquently."

She was disappointed when KITS failed to renew Bennett's contract after it expired last fall, officially basing their decision on declining listener interest and a consequent need for more music. Perry Stone, the former San Jose deejay hired to replace Bennett, played a few more songs per hour, but also assaulted his listeners and co-host Thompson with a mix of toilet humor and offhand remarks that managed at one time or another to offend women, gays, and other minorities.

Continued on Page 14

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Lori Thompson

Continued from Page 13

"I could have quit, but I had Macy's bills to pay, damn it," laughs Thompson. After a couple of months of realizing that Stone's brand of "shock radio" wouldn't raise the ratings, KITS dismissed him and gave the show to Thompson on an interim basis.

She's modest about the promotion, but aware of some of the underlying politics. "I think there is a blatant sexism in radio," she states. "I don't know of any other woman who has a morning show on FM. . . . It's thought that a male voice

commands more, but I don't think that's valid, necessarily."

KITS program director Richard Sands, named program director of the year at the recent Gavin Convention for broadcasters, thinks that the morning show is becoming more popular with the station's core listening audience—middle-income folks between the ages of 18 and 34.

"Lori's intelligent and street-smart and has a genuinely likable personality," he points out. "We have our own research in addition to the kind you pay for [the Arbitron and Birch rating services], and our research shows that people like Lori."

Those who like her may not be hearing enough of her, though, due to the obliga-

tory increase in the ratio of music to talk. Gone are the interactions with the live studio audience, the guests, and most of the phone callers.

Gone, also, is the male morning presence. Thompson can feel free to rush in at 6 a.m. and apply her makeup while trading on- and off-the-air gossip with her own newswoman, Lisa Carr. Producer Lori Reed keeps them both supplied with coffee and cassettes of advertising spots.

After the show ends at 10 a.m., Thompson does some voice-overs (speaking parts) for the cable television Discovery channel, as well as some airline in-flight videos. Later, she returns to Noe Valley, where she moved after the

quake shook her out of the Marina.

"I bop around a lot just getting enthused about the place," says Thompson about her new neighborhood. "It's nice knowing people like Christine at Phoenix Books, Pat at the Dubliner, or Joe at 3-J's. . . . and I love those little quiches at Chef's."

A born survivor, Thompson realizes that her future in radio in general and at KITS in particular will depend on unpredictable factors beyond her very real talent. "But," she asserts, "I don't rely on my professional life to provide satisfaction. My definition of happiness is just something to do, someone to love, and something to look forward to."

She should get it all. □

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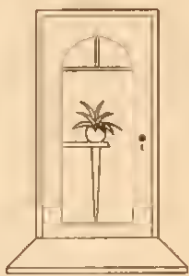
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THE LEGEND of CACTUS PETE

Who in tarnation was Cactus Pete? Stories have been fabricated about him so much that even historians disagree about who this shadowy figure really was, with no two accounts exactly alike.



Colonel Peter ("Cactus Pete") Parker: Manager of the Tuscon Toros baseball team in the Cactus League, 1923-1932. Born in Flagstaff in 1897 and given classical training in Opera, he achieved his

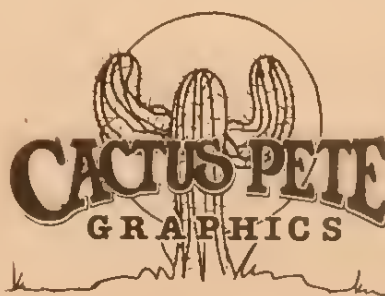
first success as a trombonist before being lured into the outfield for the Albuquerque Suns of the now defunct Cactus League in the 1920's. He disappeared in Mexico in 1934 and was not heard from until March, 1941, when he descended upon Sportsman's Park, St. Louis in a hot air balloon, claiming to have visited a planet ruled by dinosaurs. His account of his extra-terrestrial experiences, *Lizards of Oz*, was published in 1943.

Pedro ("Cactus Pete") Tabasco: born in Tijuana in 1843, he left his family at the age of 17 and travelled extensively throughout Mexico and the Southwest. In 1861, while riding for the Pony Express, he met "Buffalo Bill" Cody, who later recruited him for his famous Wild West show. Tabasco was best known for his cactus-eating act, in which he would devour an entire cactus dipped in hot sauce and then pick his teeth with the needles. After leaving the show in 1910, he opened a Mexican restaurant in Fresno, where he became famous as the inventor of Tabasco sauce. He died in 1925 of a perforated ulcer at the age of 82.



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View from Dolores Heights

The Dolores Heights Improvement Club is looking for new members. This neighborhood association has been around, says member Bob Killian, for "well over 20 years," but membership waned in the early '80s, and only recently has there been a resurgence of interest from local residents.

"We're up to 70 members now," notes Killian, "but we'd like to get even more support. Our board of directors is talking about starting a newsletter and holding a yearly social event."

The club represents the interests of residents who live on the hill separating Noe and Eureka Valleys—a neighborhood roughly bounded by 19th and 22nd streets, and Church and Noe. This area, says Killian, "is a very unique neighborhood with many older buildings, special views, and a 45 percent rear yard setback that makes it one of the greenest parts of the city, especially when seen from above."

To get involved, call Killian at 285-7175, or the club's incoming president, Rick Laubscher, at 821-9662. Membership dues are \$5 a year.

Non-Standard Art Classes

Noe Valley resident and artist Royce Vaughn has come up with a new way to bring art into the community—by teaching at a local paint store. Although art classes thrive throughout the city, notes Vaughn, many people are too busy, or too intimidated, to enroll. But what could be less intimidating, he asks, than a class located at Standard Brands Paint Center, 3333 Mission Street.

Vaughn, who has exhibited his work in numerous one-man shows—most recently at the Henry Gifford Hardy Gallery in the University Club on Nob Hill and Home Federal Savings in the Mission—will conduct his "Exploration in Art" sessions on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 11:30

SHORT TAKES

a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Cost for the four-week course is \$30, and Standard Brands will offer a 15 percent discount on initial supplies. To find out more, call 641-6031 and ask for the floor manager.

13th Annual Quilt Raffle

The Noe Valley Nursery School has just completed its 13th annual master-piece quilt. The theme, "Homes Around the World," inspired parents to create 22 patches including a New York tenement, a log cabin, children on a Japanese futon, a Swiss country house, an igloo, and a homeless person with only a knapsack.

The 6-by-7-foot quilt, and a smaller "earthquake" quilt adapted from the nursery school children's drawings of last October's shaker, are now on display at Gibraltar Savings and Loan, at 4040 24th Street.

Both quilts will be raffled off at a Pickle Family Circus performance on Memorial Day weekend. Tickets are \$10 for a book of 12, \$5 for six tickets, or \$1 apiece in front of Gibraltar as well as at the school itself, located at 1021 Sanchez Street.

All proceeds will benefit the nursery school, a 21-year-old institution in the neighborhood. Call 647-2278 for more information.

Get Your Hotcakes Here

If a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice, milk, coffee or hot chocolate—all for only \$2—sounds like a good deal, then head on over to James Lick Middle School on Saturday morning, April 21, between 8 a.m. and noon.

The school is holding a pancake fundraiser to raise money for school achievement activities such as graduation exer-

cises and honor roll awards.

Volunteers from Superior Coffee company, one of Lick's corporate sponsors, will be cooking and serving the meal, with food and paper goods supplied by local merchants.

All school entrances will be open, and parking in the upper school yard will be available (enter from 25th Street). Door prizes will also be awarded.

Glasnost at McAteer

March was a month of travel and adventure for 12 McAteer High School students who took part in the U.S.-U.S.S.R. High School Academic Partnership Program, an exchange program instituted by presidents Reagan and Gorbachev at the Moscow Summit in 1988.

The teens, who are all enrolled in McAteer's Russian language classes, spent the month taking courses at Soviet high schools while living with Russian host families. And in April, McAteer families will host a group of Soviet students.

According to Vera Eby, who heads up McAteer's 80-student, five-year-old Russian program, "Enthusiasm and excitement have spread to the whole school."

McAteer was the only California school (and one of only 50 schools nationwide) chosen to participate in the three-year program of exchanges between American and Soviet high schools.

Peace Dividend Drive

The anti-nuke group SANE/FREEZE has launched a signature drive for a ballot initiative that would cut military spending and put the savings into more pacific economic and social programs.

If passed, the initiative would create a commission to propose cuts in military



Members of Make*A*Circus demonstrate the kind of gymnastic artistry they'll be imparting to teens in their summer apprentice program. PHOTO BY MARGIE ROSSI

budgets and introduce legislation designed to protect California's economy from the adverse impact of a transition from military to civilian economy.

Alex Forman, director of Northern California SANE/FREEZE, says the initiative offers Californians "a chance to directly answer the misguided priorities of President Bush's budget, [which is] completely out of touch with the new realities following the fall of the Berlin Wall and the triumph of democratic revolutions in Eastern Europe."

In order for the initiative to reach the November 1990 ballot, SANE/FREEZE needs to collect 600,000 signatures of registered voters by the third week of May. And 24th Street in Noe Valley is one of the targeted areas.

To sign up, or to grab a clipboard, call 558-0695 or drop by the SANE/FREEZE offices at 347 Dolores Street, Room 228.

Continued on Page 16

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Hearings on Housing

According to the Department of City Planning, the population of San Francisco has increased by about 50,000 since 1980, while only 10,000 new housing units have been constructed. Of those new units, only 23 percent have been developed for low- and moderate-income households.

Do we need to accelerate construction of affordable housing? What are the best "housing opportunity sites" in the city? And how will new housing be financed?

Answers to these and other questions will be the topic of discussion at a series of neighborhood meetings on the recently drafted "residence element" of San Francisco's master plan. The document, released by the Planning Department last month, maps out the city's housing needs—as well as the policies and programs required to meet those needs—over the next five years.

This month's neighborhood meetings have been scheduled for April 3 at Lowell High School, 1101 Eucalyptus, and April 5 at Horace Mann School, 3351 23rd Street. (Call 558-6316 for times.)

Interested residents and organizations will also have an opportunity to speak

SHORT TAKES

their mind at additional hearings before the Planning Commission in May and June. Free copies of the report are available at 450 McAllister Street, Fourth Floor.

Students Plant 50 Trees

Thanks to the joint efforts of San Francisco Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) and teachers, administrators, and students at James Lick Middle School, the schoolyard on Noe Street is now the home of 50 live oak trees.

James Lick, one of seven schools in the district participating in the "City Trees" program sponsored by FUF, was a whirlwind of activity on March 27 as students, teachers, and parents planted the trees.

More than 200 students in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades were involved in "City Trees," a curriculum that also included classes in forestry, field observation, and art projects inspired by trees.

Seventh-grade science teacher Willie Collins said the Lick students really enjoyed the classes, particularly a sensory

awareness session in which students were blindfolded and asked to identify different trees based on their texture.

"The kids are doing things they don't normally do; it really turns them on to the idea that trees are interesting," added Collins.

In addition to the City Trees project, FUF staffers and volunteers regularly plant trees in neighborhoods throughout the city. Anyone interested in volunteering (green thumb not required) should call FUF at 543-5000.

On Your Mark

If your child likes to run, jump, or throw balls, you may want to sign him up (by 5 p.m. on April 21) to participate in the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's annual Youth Track and Field Meet.

The meet, scheduled for Saturday, April 28, at McAteer High School, is open to all boys and girls born between 1976 and 1983.

Events will include the 50, 100, 200, 400, 800 and 1,500 meter runs and the 4 by 100 relay, plus a long jump, high jump, and softball throw. Qualifiers will advance to the ARCO Jesse Owens Games and the Hershey National Youth Program.

Entry forms are available at local play-

grounds and recreation centers. For more information call 753-7028 or 753-7029.

Join the Circus

Make*A*Circus, San Francisco's only free-in-the-parks summer circus, is accepting applications for its summer teen apprentice program.

Now in its sixth year, the 10-week program trains youth between the ages of 14 and 20 in performance and circus skills, including gymnastics, clowning, and ensemble performance. Taught by circus performer Wendy Parkman, the course will also include a peek at Make*A*Circus rehearsals and other local theater and circus shows.

Selected applicants must qualify for San Francisco's Summer Youth Employment and Training Program (determined by parents' income) and be willing to make after-school and weekend time commitments. Following the training program, four to six apprentices will be selected to join Make*A*Circus for its regular summer tour in Northern California.

For applications and scholarship information, call Make*A*Circus at 776-8477.

Jane Underwood, Crystal Land, Addie Lanier, Laura Holland, Michele Lynn, and Jeff Kahiss contributed to this month's Short Takes.

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Meet Locally, Talk Globally, With S.F.'s New Immigrants

By Larry Beresford

Most Noe Valley residents have spent the past six months devouring the newspaper accounts of the dramatic changes occurring in Germany, China, the Soviet Union—you name it—around the world.

But now they have the opportunity to take a closer look at the international picture—by meeting and talking with recent immigrants and refugees at a monthly gathering in the neighborhood.

The get-together, billed as an "informal afternoon of ethnic pastries, tea, music, and conversation," takes place from 2 to 4 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street.

It's sponsored by the Career Resources Development Center (CRDC), a language and vocational skills training school located in the Tenderloin.

"Working with these newcomers gives me a real delight," says Judy Goddess, CRDC's education director. "We want the world to know our students, to see these diverse people and realize that in a few years they will blend in with other Americans."

The center trains about 400 students a year in 12- to 18-week courses emphasizing English as a second language, business English, and practical vocational skills. Most of the students are recent arrivals from China, Southeast Asia, Central America, and the Soviet Union.

The center's primary interest in sponsoring the once-a-month gathering was to help its students meet Americans and practice their English in a non-classroom setting.

"The point about [new immigrants] being lonely is really true," says Julie Dorf, who works at the Jewish Vocational and Career Counseling Service of San Francisco and coordinates the Soviet program at CRDC. "For many of our clients, we are the only fluent English-speaking friends they have."

According to the center's Betsy Chafcouloff, who lives in Noe Valley and has taught English in Japan, Noe Valley was chosen as the site for CRDC's informal cross-cultural exchanges because of the neighborhood's interest in travel and international affairs.

"People who go traveling get to have a lot of contact with people from other countries," Chafcouloff says. "But back



Piano music is part of the backdrop for the monthly get-togethers for new immigrants at the Noe Valley Ministry. PHOTOS BY LORENE WARWICK

home in Noe Valley, it tends to get a little isolated—everyone in the neighborhood is very similar. When not traveling, unless they are lucky enough to have a job like mine, they don't know that this experience of meeting foreigners is available to them."

Chafcouloff adds that neighborhood people who have attended the three-month-old gathering "have really liked it—including my introverted husband [Andy Blasky]. He's been having a great

time. We've had hot drinks, homemade desserts, and background piano music to about 25 participants—mostly Soviets, Chinese, CRDC staff, and their friends, plus a few curious Noe Valleyans.

One participant was Ilya Peker, who left the Black Sea port of Odessa with his wife and daughter about eight months ago and came to San Francisco in September. Like many of the 2,000 Soviet Jews who will arrive in San Francisco this year, he was fearful of the rising tide



Stephen Rice, Julia Zagatsky, Rose Levinson, and Judy Goddess joined in the international chit-chat at last month's neighborhood gathering sponsored by the Career Resources Development Center.

of anti-Semitism in his homeland—some of which is connected to new nationalist movements.

Peker, who worked in a metal processing plant in Odessa, is anxious to get a job when he completes his CRDC course in two months. "I think if I can speak good English I want to work in a bank," he says.

The most recent gathering, held March 4 in the Ministry's upstairs sanctuary, of-

fered hot drinks, homemade desserts, and background piano music to about 25 participants—mostly Soviets, Chinese, CRDC staff, and their friends, plus a few curious Noe Valleyans.

One participant was Ilya Peker, who left the Black Sea port of Odessa with his wife and daughter about eight months ago and came to San Francisco in September. Like many of the 2,000 Soviet Jews who will arrive in San Francisco this year, he was fearful of the rising tide

He and his compatriot, Anzhelika Yepishin, emphasize that they did not come to America for economic reasons, and did not find it an easy decision to leave their country. "We all had good jobs and good flats in the U.S.S.R.," he says. "We were afraid about our future, our children," adds Yepishin, putting her arms around her son Roman, 13, who attends A.P. Giannini Middle School and likes rock music. (Most of the city's Russian immigrants reside in the Sunset or Richmond districts.)

Both Peker and Yepishin agree that life for new arrivals in the U.S. is hard. They must overcome many hurdles, such as finding a place to live, learning the language, and persuading employers to give them a chance. But compared with the people in Russia—many of whom are frustrated and angry about consumer goods shortages and government policies—Americans are "very friendly and open," Yepishin says. "Maybe it's my dream, but I want to see Americans just like my dream."

Mikel Tsargorodsky, also from Odessa, adds, "I came with my daughter and her husband and my grandchildren. They can live as American people live, and take the culture and habits of Americans. But for me, at my age, it is difficult."

"I think I can work—I'm a good engineer—if my English will be better."

One person who might be able to lend an ear is Miriam Brown, a native of France who is fluent in both English and Russian. Brown attended the Ministry party because "I thought I could exchange conversational classes with someone here. It's helpful for me to meet Russians. I'm from France, so I feel like a foreigner, too."

Carol Lynne D'Areangelis, a native of New York State who recently returned from a trip to Australia, found out about the event in the March *Voice*. "I thought this was something in my neighborhood that I could take advantage of," she said, as well as a grassroots opportunity to "think globally by acting locally."

Also in the Noe Valley contingent was Eric Spiekermann, a school teacher who has worked in the Central American sanctuary movement. "I used to entertain guests from around the world through the International Hospitality Center. There's just not enough of this sort of thing," he said, adding that the gathering "could only take place in Noe Valley."

Organizer Goddess, who would like to see more neighborhood folk attend next month's social, says, "People don't have to come with an agenda—just come. Be yourselves, bring your children. Just check it out."

The next two get-togethers will be held April 1 and May 6. For more information, call Judy Goddess or Betsy Chafcouloff at 775-8880. □

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Three Local Shop Owners Go to the Races

Straight from the Horsemen's Mouth

By Stephen Rosenthal

Most people think of the Kentucky Derby or the Triple Crown when they think of horse races. The local racetracks at Golden Gate Fields, Bay Meadows, and Northern California's rustic summer fair circuit can't compete with the palatial thoroughbred horse racing establishments in Los Angeles and New York.

But horse racing in the Bay Area still brings a great deal of excitement and satisfaction into many lives, including those of three Noe Valley businessmen.

Entering Harry Aleo's Twin Peaks Properties is to walk into a veritable museum of horse racing memorabilia. Mementos of his involvement in racing adorn the walls, cover his desks and

some, but I always had fun and wound up meeting quite a few interesting people. I became fascinated with racing and yearned for the excitement of active participation in the racing industry, but my business and family responsibilities precluded any such notion until 11 years ago, when I purchased my first racehorse."

That would be Sunny Shy, who promptly won for Aleo the second time he ran. Sunny Shy was "claimed" out of the race, however, and Aleo was once again without a horse. (A claiming race is one in which any horse entered may be claimed, or purchased, by someone else before the race, for a previously established price. Win, lose, or break down, the horse belongs to the new owner at the end of the race. The original owner, however, re-

ever to race in Northern California, is Minutes Away.

Minutes Away first cruised to victory for Aleo in the 1985 Bay Meadows Derby, one of Northern California's most important races for 3-year-old horses. But although he took on and summarily crushed a very competitive field, Aleo's star horse also howed a tendon (an ailment similar to a severely sprained ankle) in one of his front legs.

"The only real cure for this type of injury is rest," explains Aleo. "There are quick-fix methods that can be employed to get a horse back to the races quicker, but Minutes Away means much more to me than a quick buck, so I turned him out to pasture until his recovery was complete."

Upon his return to the races, Minutes Away didn't disappoint his patient owner and won at first asking, setting the track record for six furlongs (three-quarters of a mile) at Sacramento. He went on to win the rest of his races in 1986, and in '87 and '88—although still plagued by tendon troubles—Minutes Away continued his remarkable victory streak, winning eight of the 10 races he ran in, and finishing second in the other two.

When the tendon became tender once again in 1988, Minutes Away was thought to be at the end of his career. But he surprised everyone with another full recovery, and is once again in light training. If everything goes well, says Aleo, he hopes to bring Minutes Away back for a few more races in 1990.

"I'll never humiliate this horse, nor will I ever race him if his leg can't take it," Aleo declares. "He's given me so much—more excitement than I ever dreamed of, and that's what racing means to me."

John Moresco would second that sentiment. The former proprietor of St. Clair's Liquors has raced horses for only a few years, but says he has yet to experience the down side. "I know it will happen eventually," he admits, "but thus far racing has been a dream come true."

Moresco comes by his interest in racing



Harry Aleo, who started playing the horses while a kid in Noe Valley, stands in his 24th Street realty office among photos of his equine champions. One of his favorites is Minutes Away, who ran a winning streak in the 1980s. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP



Former neighborhood merchant John Moresco (center in short sleeves) stands in the winner's circle with his champion mare Estrella Blanca, ridden by O. A. Martinez. Moresco's family (at left) and trainer John Buc (right) share in the 1988 victory. PHOTO BY PAT VISCO

tables, and fill more than one four-drawer file cabinet. Aleo's obvious devotion to the horses even predates the 42 years he has spent in the real estate business.

"When I was a kid there were two hookie joints on 24th Street," Aleo relates, "and I used to go to one of them, Peppy's Pool Hall, and make 50-cent bets on the horses. I'd win some bets and lose

ceives any money won by the horse in that particular race, in addition to the purchase price. Claiming races make up the majority of a daily racing program.)

"I was hooked and it didn't take me long to get another horse," reminisces Aleo. "I claimed Little Screecher, who won quite a few races for me." But his favorite horse, one of the gamest horses

thanks to an uncle who used to take him to the racetrack as a child. Unlike Aleo, whom Moresco credits with helping him along in the business of racing, he never bet on the horses but was "simply taken up with the beauty and spectacle of the sport."

Six years ago Moresco bought some greyhounds in order to "get a foundation in the racing business with a minimal investment." One dog won enough money to enable him to buy a 10 percent stake in a horse syndicate (a joint ownership that enables newcomers with limited funds to invest in and race horses). Two years ago he claimed his first horse Estrella Blanca, in partnership with his trainer's father. Estrella Blanca proved to be an astute purchase, for she won her first three races in her new owner's colors.

Moresco's current stable is small, consisting of only Estrella Blanca and Ark of Tawa, a 4-year-old colt he purchased privately. He intends to eventually breed his own stock, he says, but while Moresco feels that racing in the Bay Area is generally "good," he also notes that "problems exist in Northern California racing," and envisions himself looking more to the

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Three Horsemen

Continued from Page 18

Southern California racing circuit as his stable expands.

"Northern California racing is geared more to the claiming game and not toward the development of good young horses," he says. "Although I've been lucky thus far claiming horses, it's pretty much a crap shoot. All horses cost the same on a monthly basis, whether they win the Kentucky Derby or run in the cheapest claiming races at the track. With the financial incentives provided by the California breeding program, it makes sense to get into breeding horses of genuine quality in California, and in order to prove a horse's quality you've got to run him against suitable competition."

Graystone Wine and Liquors owner Hugh Stone can testify to that. The retired engineer has been in the racing game for over 30 years and has experienced practically every facet of the sport. "I'm in it because I love horses, but racing is a tough business—emotionally and financially—and very time consuming," he says from his store at 24th and Castro. "It's the only business I know where you're the boss but don't run the show."

That's the trainer's job, he explains, and Stone, although a "hands-on" owner, usually defers to his trainer's judgment. The trainer decides when, where, and how to run a horse. He determines the distance, the surface (grass or dirt), the equipment used, medications (if any), and the jockey. He also chooses the feeding and nutritional regimen for the horse, and the frequency and speed of conditioning workouts.

"The trainer is with the horses every day, so he knows them best, but in certain cases I've put my foot down," says Stone. "I choose my trainers carefully. I breed many of my own horses, so I need a person who can develop young horses. You must put a lot of trust into your trainer's abilities, and it's very important

to get someone you feel comfortable with. Nobody contributes more to the success, or failure, of a thoroughbred racehorse than its trainer."

Stone points to Morton Lipton, one of his first trainers, as the person who was most influential in his early racing experience. "Morton was a great trainer. He never pushed a horse beyond his capabilities. He once told me that if a horse is more than seven to two on the tote board, he probably doesn't belong in the race. Unlike most trainers, he didn't need the money, he just loved the game, so he always showed great patience with both horses and owners." Lipton, notes Stone, was also responsible for claiming Adapt-

able Miss, Stone's foundation brood mare and the mother of some of his current runners.

Stone suffered perhaps his biggest disappointment in racing with his very first horse. "I lost him in a claiming race, and he went on to become a pretty good horse. In fact he became a stakes winner [the highest race class], so that really hurt." A stakes winner can bring instant credibility, not to mention money, to a racing operation.

Stone thinks that racing in the Bay Area could stand some improvement, and says he sees off-track betting and more support for local horsemen as the key to future progress. "We've got a lot of good

people racing here, but in order to keep them here, the tracks have to provide some incentives, such as better purse distribution and safer racing surfaces."

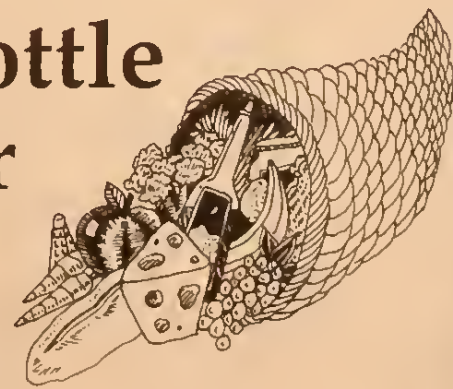
The proliferation of racing dates across the country has taken its toll on quality, dimming the spotlight on all but a few racetracks. But racing is a way of life and not simply a business. It consists of extremely hard work, long hours, countless disappointments—and people like Harry Aleo, John Moresco, and Hugh Stone, who wouldn't want to be doing anything else.



Graystone Liquor Store owner Hugh Stone (right) lends an encouraging word to one of his thoroughbreds being trained by Steve Wiberg at Golden Gate Fields in Albany. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

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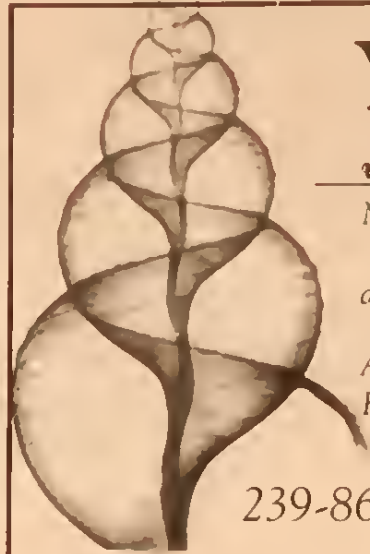
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Playwright Linfante's Creative Path

By Isabelle Choinière
and Jane Underwood

"A friend once told me that I was really a hostess," confides Noe Valley playwright Michele Linfante, who has been teaching creative writing classes out of her San Jose Avenue apartment for the past two years.

Linfante, 44, has worked as a waitress, a nurse, and an actress, as well as a playwright and teacher. "And I have come to realize," she says in response to her friend's comment, "that service and creativity work the same way."

In the early stages of her work as a teacher, Linfante says she felt obligated to maintain a firm hand in directing the development of her students. With time, however, she learned that each student brings his or her own creative force to the writing process. Each individual, she notes, is in some form a teacher for themselves and the group as a whole. Thus Linfante has come to view the group, in and of itself, as an art form.

Linfante's own creative path led her from her native New Jersey to San Francisco almost 20 years ago. Within weeks of her arrival here, she auditioned for the San Francisco Mime Troupe, one of the first theater collectives in the Bay Area. Although her only prior theatrical experience was in high school, she was invited to join the troupe as an actress as well as a participating playwright.

Linfante left the collective after less than a year, however, and began to focus more on her own writing. She also decided to learn a trade, and enrolled in a local community college to train as a vocational nurse. After graduating, Linfante practiced nursing for six years, but eventually felt a need to reconnect with the theater.

So in 1976 she joined Lilith Theatre, an all-women collective founded three years earlier. "Lilith," Linfante recalls, "was an all-female group, was a very important theater—women's voices were still not heard much at the time, and I even had reservations about my own voice, but I was able to hide within the group and come along gradually."

In fact, Linfante not only came out of hiding, she also collaborated on Lilith's major scripts—*Moonlighting*, comical scenes and vignettes about women and work (1976), and *Sacrifices*, a parable about the women's movement (1977). She also performed in these productions, as well as in the play *Manifesto*, an American adaptation of a work by Italian feminist Dacia Maraini (1978). *Moonlighting* and *Manifesto* took the troupe on a European tour produced by Linfante.

In 1980 Linfante completed *Pizza*, a one-act comedy/drama of her own, which won her a National Endowment



At her San Jose Avenue apartment, Michele Linfante practices the sort of improvisational performance that delighted and enlightened fans of Lilith Theatre in the 1970s. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

for the Arts fellowship.

Shortly following Lilith's return from its successful European tour, however, dissensions in the company led to a painful split. Linfante stayed on to work through the following year, but then took what turned out to be a permanent leave of absence in 1981. At this time she returned to New Jersey to nurse her parents, both of whom were seriously ill.

While back east, she was commissioned to bring a show to a theater festival in Paris. Before leaving for Europe, however, both her parents died, virtually on the same day. This strongly influenced her work, recounts Linfante, and soon thereafter she created *Flight Nurse*, a one-woman show about her father, which she took, in the spring of 1982, to France, Switzerland, and Germany.

The death of her parents led Linfante to further explore an issue that had always "compelled" her. "Much of my work," she explains, "is about the loss of culture—and the creation of culture—based on the patchwork that comes down to us through history."

"Two generations ago, I was an Italian peasant. One generation ago, I was a cloistered Italian-American girl living in a stereotypical enclave. Now I'm a free agent, far from my roots, with a family made up of friends and colleagues. But what I am fascinated with is the question, what are the keys I need from the old culture, so that I can create patterns for the new culture?"

Upon her return to New Jersey, Linfante had to confront that history in a big way—by disposing of the house she had grown up in, along with the memories

attached to it.

"All I could do for many months," she recalls, "was grieve, and grieve some more. It was as if a part of me had died with them, and I needed to take my time in healing old wounds that had suddenly surfaced."

The months turned into a couple of years, but in 1986, a new stage in Linfante's healing process began, when she was invited by Iowa State University to co-write a piece with two of the school's speech and drama teachers, as well as to direct a group of students, some of whom had never acted before. The result, titled *Cafe Iowa*, was produced within six weeks—an experience that Linfante describes as "a crash course in theater and in therapy."

For Linfante, creativity is linked with healing. "I often quote artist Georges Braque, who said that 'art is a wound that becomes a light,'" she says.

Intrigued more and more by the fact that, in theater, the group dynamic brings out material in the same way a therapy support group does, Linfante began taking classes from Marcia Kimmel, director of The Next Stage Theater and a master of improvisational games. There she met Sherrie Echols, a psychologist who was then assistant director at the Northeast Lodge, a residential "three-quarter-way" house for psychiatric patients, located at Folsom and Ninth streets.

Echols, recognizing Linfante's theatrical expertise, invited her to lead a theater group for a few hours each week. At the end of the first semester, Linfante applied for a grant from the California Arts Council in order to continue teaching at

the Lodge. She got it, and her drama classes have since become an institution there.

Last December, Linfante's graduating class, directed by muralist Johanna Poethig, presented their final art project—a life-sized "Monopoly" game, with rules revised to represent the mental health system in San Francisco today, played by real-life patients utilizing the improvisational techniques learned from Linfante.

Outside of her work at the Lodge, Linfante recently directed a play "about moments of destiny and miracles," written by Bay Area performance artist Nina Wise. The play, titled *Guide Book for the Lonely Planet*, was performed by the Theater Workers of Marin in San Rafael in March.

And, of course, Linfante continues to lead her creative writing classes on San Jose Avenue. There, between tea and cookies, she exposes aspiring writers to the technique of rapid writing, an approach used by Gertrude Stein, among others. In spurts of 10 to 15 minutes, students write, without pausing to correct grammatical or spelling errors.

"This technique," Linfante explains, "helps in freeing material from the bottom up, instead of letting the mind control the creative flow... You just sift down to the essential."

The practice is just one of several she suggests students use in order to overcome creative blocks, such as the dreaded "blank-page syndrome."

"I know by experience," she notes, "that the harder it is to write, the more there is that one has to say." □

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Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub

Easters Remembered

There are many Easter photos in my family album, and each prompts a special memory. The earliest Easter that I can remember was one of wonder at receiving a marshmallow-filled, chocolate-coated Easter egg, upon which the Easter Bunny had, with flourishes and frosting, personally written my name! And then there is a faded photograph of me at age 7, holding a candy-filled basket, wearing a new straw bonnet and smiling broadly—revealing two missing front teeth.

One distressing memory comes from the year when we were given some live baby chicks. They were so adorable, and we were so delighted with them that we were shocked in the morning to find them all dead, huddled together in the box under the stove, without their mother to keep them warm. We wailed loudly until we were distracted with baskets overflowing with sweets. (A small yellow marshmallow chick in mine, however, triggered a few more sobs.)

There were exhausting Easters, too, when relatives joined us to hike up to the cross on top of Mount Davidson while it was still pitch-dark, in order to be there in time for the sunrise service. We children, sandwiched between the standing adults, could never see or hear much, so we always left the worship early, scurrying over the hilly terrain of grass and wildflowers back to Noe Valley. We hurried (sometimes falling, skinning our knees, and ripping our Easter clothing—my cousin Herbert ruined his knickers) because we knew that our mother was preparing delicious waffles for everyone, and we wanted to be the first.

One frivolous holiday I shall never forget. My friend Elsie and I had shopped for weeks to find the perfect bonnets. We were young working girls earning enough money to indulge ourselves, and it was the custom to attend church to show off one's finery. (The song "In Your Easter Bonnet" tells it all.) Elsie and I decided to attend the nearest church, although we weren't members, so that our friends would be sure to see us. But as we sat listening to the sermon, we were a bit taken aback when the minister, scanning the huge array of frilly spring hats, said solemnly, "I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas, because I know that I will not see most of you again until next Easter." He never saw us again at all.

A rather mysterious Easter occurred when my husband Leo and I, newly married with small children, spent the holiday with Leo's parents. We boiled and decorated eight dozen eggs, and in the morning before our boys awakened, we hid them out in the garden. A few hours later the hunt began, and the boys, joined by a few cousins, scrambled around every nook and cranny until all the eggs were found—we thought. Two dozen eggs were still missing. The adults looked too, but without success.

Leo's mother didn't join in because she had another concern. Her big black Labrador, who usually dogged the children, had crawled into his doghouse and was lying there listlessly, with doleful eyes. She offered him some dog food, but he showed no interest, so she brought him a saucer of milk, his favorite treat. Still no response.

Nippy was a good dog and had been with the family for a long time, so everyone felt apprehensive. But he recovered miraculously the next day, after his walk. Later we observed a mound of incriminating evidence, laced with eggshells. Of course it was only circumstantial, so he was never charged.

The most pleasant holiday was the first Easter we spent in our own home atop Dolores Heights. We leisurely hasked in the sunshine on the deck, watching our 3-year-old search for the eggs that his older brothers had hidden. In the company of Leo's parents and my father, we experienced a family day of ease and contentment.

But the most profound Easter of all occurred in 1969 during the Vietnam War, when the holiday coincided with San Francisco's annual peace march. I attended the



Easter Sunday 1969

march with our son Eric, then 12 years old. It began at the Civic Center, proceeded almost to the end of Van Ness Avenue, turned and went west for 14 blocks, and ended at the Presidio where a speaker's stand had been constructed.

From the beginning of the march, the mood was quietly reverent. Occasionally someone would start to sing a song like "Kum-Bah-Yah, Lord" or "Give Peace a Chance," but generally the only sound was that of shuffling feet. The title of a best-selling book written by a pacifist priest, *Are You Running with Me, Jesus?*, came to mind at the time, not as a question, but more as an answer. His spirit was there, with the thousands of people of every race, color, and age moving in one direction, for one reason: peace.

For several hours we listened to speakers, while I sketched the people milling around. In the crowd we recognized Eric's pretty young James Lick teacher, Miss North, who was there with her sister. After a friendly chat we invited Miss North and her sister to come over for the turkey dinner that was roasting in our oven at home. In their delightful company, together with our family members who had stayed home to watch the oven and the game on television, we happily ended the most meaningful of all Easter Sundays.



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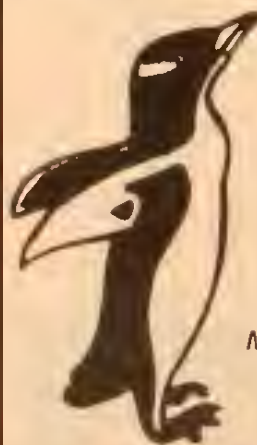
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Former Church Street Merchant Dies of AIDS

By Steve Steinberg

George Ash, a popular Noe Valley merchant during the mid-1980s, died of AIDS complications on January 20. He was 50.

A memorial service was held for Ash January 25 at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav on Danvers Street. He was buried in Orange County, where his mother and brother live.

Ash was the owner of Church Street Faire, a party specialty shop at the corner of Church and 24th streets (where Carroll's Books is now located). After four

years of selling birthday cards, Halloween masks, and stocking stuffers, he closed the shop in 1988 when his illness began to take its toll.

Raised in Michigan, Ash was a long-shoreman before getting into the retail business.

Friends remembered him as a "sweet man" who loved his store and enjoyed decorating parties with balloons. He would often deliver his balloons dressed in a gorilla or clown suit.

"He was just a kid at heart," said Cynthia DeLosa, a former employee of Church Street Faire and the current owner of the One Stop Party Shop.

She also praised Ash for his courage in fighting AIDS. "His whole outlook was life-affirming," said DeLosa, noting that Ash remodeled his house and bought

a van even as the ravages of the disease encroached upon his life.

Ash gave freely to many causes, including the San Francisco Zoo ("he loved the buffalo in Golden Gate Park," said good friend Ron Henderson), Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, and several AIDS organizations.

Besides Church Street Faire, Ash was also a part owner of the Musele System gym on Market Street and a Christmas store called Ho Ho Ho.

Ash always liked Noe Valley and had fond thoughts about the neighborhood up to the end. Henderson recalls one of his last times outdoors, some three weeks before he died. Ash asked Henderson to drive him around Noe Valley, where he reminisced about many of the local sights. Then the two went to Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park and fed the ducks. □



Former neighborhood shop owner George Ash is remembered as a sweet, generous, and fun-loving man.

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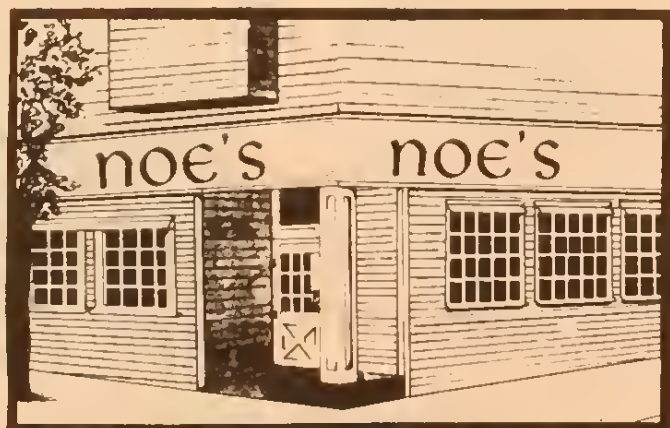
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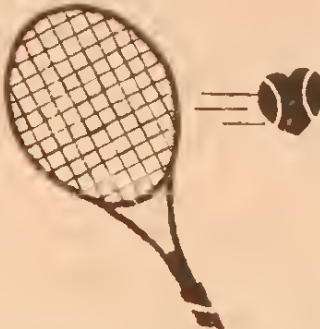
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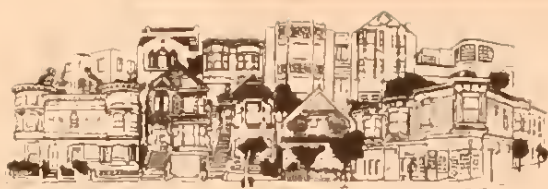


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SO, WHAT ELSE IS NEW? According to Mission Station's new police captain, Michael Hebel, Noe Valley's are still harping about two neighborhood nuisances. "Most of the complaints we receive relate to either parking or litter," Hebel says.

Though he took over the helm just three months ago (former Mission captain Michael Brush was promoted to commander), Hebel is no stranger to the neighborhood. He lives in Diamond Heights (since 1980), and shops Downtown Noe Valley, and therefore has firsthand experience with the treacherous "Bell Market Bottleneck" on 24th. A San Francisco police officer since 1966, he is also a lawyer and holds a master's degree in criminology.

Says Hebel: "People are fed up with cars blocking the sidewalks, so we are stepping up our enforcement and citing vehicles who either park on or across the sidewalk. Our rule of thumb is whether a blind person or a person restricted to a wheelchair can navigate the sidewalk without having to go into the street."

Hebel's command is also stepping up efforts to remove abandoned cars and tow vehicles owned by "scofflaws," those who have 10 or more unpaid parking tickets (or an expired registration and five or more unpaid parking tickets).

He's aware that every parking space counts in San Francisco. "Parking becomes a real problem when there are 450,000 cars registered in a city that has approximately 300,000 legal parking spaces, and I think that we are going to need local legislation to limit the number of cars registered in San Francisco and eventually limit the number of vehicles that can be owned by any one individual. I would also encourage those who are lucky enough to have a garage to use it."

As a show of good faith, Hebel has given 24th Street's "beat cop," Lois Perillo, a bicycle to use on her patrol. Since Perillo's bike patrol is the first in the city, Hebel says, police brass will be watching closely to see if the practice should be recycled to other neighborhoods.

☎ ☎ ☎

AMAZINGLY, PARKING WAS NO PROBLEM at Bell Market for close to a week in mid March. That's because Lorimar Television had rented Bell's parking lot to tape some scenes for the weekly series *Midnight*

and now **RUMORS** behind the news for the BY MAZOOK



*This sumptuous fruit stand was one of the casualties during the videotaping of a *Midnight Caller* episode in Bell Market's parking lot last month. But don't fret, neighborhood conservationists—the produce was donated to Open Hand, a non-profit food delivery service, a few days after the shooting. PHOTO BY JOEL ABRAMSON*

Caller, and Bell's car-carrying shoppers were treated to free valet parking, courtesy of the Flying Dutchmen hired by Columbia Pictures (Lorimar's parent company).

Unfortunately for Bell, the store's customers were too intimidated to just drive into a movie set, even with the lure of valet parking. "Our business dropped significantly [over 25 percent] over the four days they were filming," Bell manager Stan Lau said.

Also, residents living on Elizabeth Street were less than thrilled to see their precious parking spots monopolized by the TV show's cavalcade of mobile homes, sound trucks, and snack vans.

But most locals had the "Am I in show biz yet?" attitude, and vied for ringside seats when two Hollywood stunts—a nasty shootout and a car crash into a fruit stand—were staged in the lot. (The real-life fruits and vegetables, by the way, were donated to Open Hand following the shooting.)

The episode, titled "The Wrong Side of the Wall," starred regular Gary Cole (ex-cop turned deejay), with special guest star Levon Helm (ex-con turned police informant). It was aired on NBC Tuesday, March 27, 10 p.m., but will undoubtedly be shown in summer reruns. The Bell scenes took up about six minutes of the 46-minute story.

Midnight Caller producer John Perry says Bell was chosen because "the look of the market captured the neighborhood flavor of San Francisco and was a perfect setting for our story line."

"Noe Valley is a lovely little place," he added. "The shots across 24th Street—all the little stores—were great, and we were able to use local people as atmosphere and background actors."

Perry said he was surprised at the number of autograph-seekers who descended on rock musician/actor Helm (drummer for the Band/*Coal Miner's Daughter*) and director Matt Clark, who's also a character actor, with *Jeremiah Johnson* and *In the Heat of the Night* to his credit.

"A lot of the neighbors would come back day after day and watch for three or four hours," he said.

Perry and company may be returning to the neighborhood themselves. "Our whole crew got hooked on Spinelli's coffee."

☎ ☎ ☎

SHORT SHRIFTS. According to developer Jack Cassidy, the Philosophers Stone (24th near Church) should crumble under the wrecker's ball within the next two months, and a five-unit, three-story residential building will be erected in its stead. . . Luisa, owner of Noe Valley Pasta (which used to be Mom's and before that the famous Acme Café), is planning to open the back deck for your afternoon and warm-evening enjoyment. There'll also be an Italian-style cappuccino bar in front, she says. . . Pacific Heights Kites is now located in the Noe Valley Mall, which is just fine as long as the Noe Valley Market remains in Eureka Valley (Noe and 15th). . . Noe Valley Jewelry—it used to be Marty's Frog Shop—apparently has warts and is closed and up for

sale. . . The rumor that Zeffirelli's (1500 Church) is going out of business is NOT true—the "For Rent" sign in the store window last month was for the four-bedroom flat upstairs (a piddling \$1,800 bucks). . . Royal Cleaners is opening a dry cleaning operation on Church (1461). . . Classy Sweats has a load of tee shirts announcing "The Silver and Black Are Back," which could be wishful thinking.

☎ ☎ ☎

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PREPAREDNESS A SUCCESS. The Duhmer's Patrick Dent was ready for the onslaught March 17. Even before his doors opened at 6 a.m., Dent had installed two porta-toilets in the parking stall directly in front of the bar. He'd also prepared an enormous quantity of filler material: 400 pounds of corned beef. By the end of the festivities, however, the crowds had consumed all 400 pounds and many times that weight in draft beer.

There was also a run on the Irish soda bread that's baked by Roland Wenger at Star Bakery (Church and 29th). Wenger reports that he sold over 1,000 loaves on St. Pat's Day and a total of 4,000 the previous week.

Here's a recipe, offered by Elizabeth Street resident and school teacher Jerry Lucey:

Irish Soda Bread

2 cups unsifted all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons butter (softened)
1/2 cup seedless raisins
1 cup buttermilk
1 tablespoon melted butter

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease baking sheet. Sift flour and other dry ingredients into a bowl, cut in butter, add raisins, pour in buttermilk, and stir. Press mixture into a ball, place it on a lightly floured board, and knead until smooth. Shape into another ball, then flatten into a seven-inch circle, cut an "X" in the top, and bake for 30 to 40 minutes. Remove from oven and paint melted butter on top. Let cool, and then hulk up.

I'm told the recipe works not only for St. Pat's, but for the other 364 days as well. But it's too complicated for me—see you at Star! Ciao for now. □

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"Aw" of the Month

"Sheila" extends a soulful invitation to other Noe Valley canines to come join her in the woods above Douglass Park, location of the neighborhood's official dog run
PHOTO BY JOEL ABRAMSON

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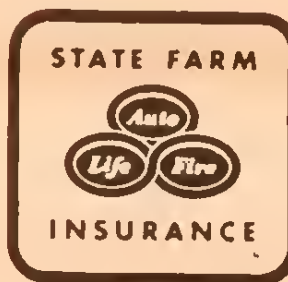
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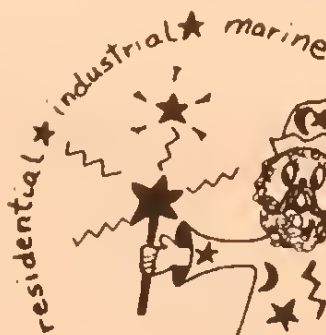
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MORE Books to Read

Here's your April reading list, with annotations provided by Noe Valley librarians Roberta Greifer (adult) and Carol Small (children's). The books, located at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey Street, will be open for viewing on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. Phone: 285-2788.

Adult Fiction

In *Burn Marks* by Sara Paretsky, popular detective Victoria Warshawski investigates a construction-site murder.

Piecing Will, Ann Beattie's latest novel, chronicles the lives of a mother, a father, and the mother's boyfriend from the point of view of a 5½-year-old son.

Set in Carmel, California, *Probable Cause* by Ridley Pearson is a crime novel centering around a series of apparent suicides.

Reasonable Doubt is Philip Friedman's novel about a trial attorney who defends his daughter-in-law accused of the murder of his son.

Told in the first person, *Sex Education* by Jenny Davis depicts two teenagers who learn about love, sex, and life while working on a high school project.

Adult Non-Fiction

How I Became Hettie Jones is poet and children's author Hettie Jones' memoir of the multiracial art and literary world of bohemian New York in the 1950s and '60s.

Unsolved Great Mysteries of the 20th Century by Kirk Wilson contains 10 homicide investigations, including those of the death of Marilyn Monroe and the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa.

Once a Bum, Always a Dodger is Don Drysdale's account of his career in baseball.

We Danced All Night by Doris Shapiro, the personal assistant of Alan Jay Lerner, gives an inside glimpse of Lerner's life and show business history.

Children's Fiction

Once again Nate the Great, Boy Detective, saves the day in *Nate the Great Goes Down in the Dumps*, written by Marjorie Weinman and illustrated by Marc Simont.

In this story, for ages 6 to 8, Nate figures out the location of Rosamund's money box.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry is a gripping story (for kids 6 and up) about Annemarie, a 10-year-old Danish girl who helps her best friend, Ellen, escape from the Nazis during World War II.

With Lorinda Bryan Cauley's *Old Mac Donald Had a Farm*, you and your pre-schooler can turn pages of beautiful illustrations while singing this favorite animal song.

Spend a day with Sam and his dad on an 18-wheeler truck in Henry Horenstein's *Sam Goes Trucking*, for kids 3 to 5.

Linda Girard's *We Adopted You, Benjamin Koo* tells the story of Benjamin Koo Andrews, a Korean orphan who was adopted by a loving American family.

Children's Non-Fiction

Kids 6 and up, especially those who like to play with words and sounds, will get a kick out of Eve Merriam's new book of poetry, *Chortles*, illustrated by Sheila Hamanaka.

Caroline Arnold's *Dinosaur Mountain: Graveyard of the Past*, describes what dinosaurs were like, how some came to be fossilized, and how paleontologists discover their secrets.

Hippo, another book by Caroline Arnold, presents a wealth of information on hippos in general—and on the hippo family at the San Francisco Zoo in particular. Aimed at readers 6 and up, the book has wonderful, endearing color photographs by Richard Jewett.

Do fish sleep? How do penguins keep warm? Find the answers in *The Kids' Question and Answer Book*, for ages 5 and up, from the editors of *OWI* magazine.

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(It would also be a big help if you would indicate whether you are renewing an ad from a previous issue, and include the old copy with your renewal.)

Our address is 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Note: The next issue will appear May 1, 1990. Please mail your ad and check—made payable to the *Noe Valley Voice*—so that we receive it by April 15. Sorry, but we are unable to take phone or drop-in orders.

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CALENDAR

APRIL 4: The East & West of Castro Improvement Club holds its monthly MEETING at James Lick School, Room 107. 8 pm. 1220 Noe St. 647-3753

APRIL 4, 11, 18 & 25: The Noe Valley Library welcomes parents and babies to its INFANT-TODDLER LAPSITS, held Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 285-2788

APRIL 4-MAY 9: Instructor Seivick McStravick offers a course in PRENATAL YOGA on Wednesdays through May 9 at the Integral Yoga Institute. 7:30-9 pm. 770 Dolores St. 824-9600 or 821-1117

APRIL 5-7: Dancer Jelt Friedman presents "Locus," an evening of SOLO PERFORMANCE at Footwork. 8:30 pm. 3221 22nd St. 550-1271 or 824-5044

APRIL 5-21: Fobbo Gallery exhibits paintings and works on paper by artist CHANDRA GARSSON. Thurs-Sun, 3-7 pm. 3747 23rd St. 695-0640

APRIL 8: The graduate psychology program at New College of California continues its "Psychology and the Social World" lecture series with "Unaffordable Denial: Confronting a Toxic World." 7 pm. New College Theater, 777 Valencia St. 861-4168 or 552-7361

APRIL 9: The Diamond Senior Center holds its SPRING DANCE with the music of Walter Traverso. 1-3 pm. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507

APRIL 9 & 11: OPTIONS for Women Over Forty presents "Lifelinks," a two-part WORKSHOP for women seeking meaningful work. 1-5 pm. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. To register, call 431-6405

APRIL 17-19: Local artists 7 AFTER EVE present a three-day exhibit of installations, paintings, and sculpture at Artists' Television Access. Opening reception April 17 begins at 6 pm, with special video presentations and live performances at 8 pm. Gallery hours: April 18 & 19, 2-8 pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890

APRIL 17-MAY 12: "Selections '90," the Eye Gallery's fourth annual juried PHOTOGRAPHY exhibit, continues through May 12. Reception April 20, 6-9 pm. Gallery hours: Tues-Sat., noon-5 pm. 1151 Mission St. 431-6911

APRIL 18: Those interested in the upcoming Diamond Senior Center "Highlights of Italy" trip in September are invited to attend an INFORMATIONAL MEETING. 1:30 pm. Diamond Senior Center, 117 Diamond St. Contact Betty Garvey, weekdays, at 863-3507

APRIL 20: Performance artist DEKE WEAVER includes video, film, slides, and live monologue in his "An Accumulation of Answers" at Artists' Television Access. 8:30 pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890

APRIL 20-22: The Shanti Project hosts "Breaking the Silence," a TRAINING WORKSHOP for the deaf/hearing impaired community and their hearing friends, family, professional caregivers, and service providers. 525 Howard St. Contact Christine Buck at 777-2273 for information and reservations.

APRIL 21: The neighborhood is invited to a PANCAKE FUNDRAISER at the James Lick Middle School cafeteria, where all proceeds will benefit student achievement activities. 8 am-noon. 1220 Noe St. 695-5675

APRIL 21: Residents on 28th Street between Church and Sanchez hold a block-long "Spring Cleaning" GARAGE SALE. 10 am-4 pm



Carolyn Crampton's "Burger King Madonna" appears among the "7 After Eve" on April 17 at Artists' Television Access.

APRIL 21: The Alvarado SCHOOL FESTIVAL features music by salsa band Los Compas as well as Alvarado students. 11 am-3 pm. Alvarado schoolyard, 625 Douglass St. 864-2100 or 824-9245.



"Organic Gothic," a photo by Barbara Klutinis, is part of a Gallery Sanchez exhibit called "To Heal the Earth," opening April 15.

APRIL 21: Honest Productions presents an evening of original music and satire with "Two Left Feet." 8 pm. Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St. 821-0232

APRIL 21: MISHA FEYGIN, folksinger from the Soviet Union, performs in the Noe Valley Music Series as part of his U.S. debut tour. 8-15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

APRIL 22: BERNAL RECYCLING CENTER schedules this month's pickup of neighborhood recyclables on Earth Day. 11 am-3 pm. Corner of Clipper and Castro. 282-0364

APRIL 24: The Noe Valley Library screens these films for preschoolers: "Little Blue, Little Yellow," "Harold's Fairy Tale," "Jenny's Birthday." 10 and 11 am. 451 Jersey St. 285-2788

APRIL 24: Swami Ramananda teaches a DEEP RELAXATION workshop at the Integral Yoga Institute. 7:30-9 pm. 770 Dolores St. 824-9600 or 821-1117

APRIL 24: The films "Moon Man," "Chairy Tale," and "Golden Fish" will be shown for children ages 6 and up at the Noe Valley Library. 3:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. 285-2788

APRIL 25-MAY 20: Tale Spinners Theater presents "Seniors!" an original musical review by Nancy Deutsch about growing up and growing old in San Francisco. Wed-Sun, call theater for times. Studio Eremos, 401 Alabama St. 861-7950.

APRIL 26: Janel Capone, Denise Lelo and others read their work to benefit the upcoming special issue of SINISTER WOMEN, which will highlight the lives of Italian-American lesbians. 7:30 pm. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675.

APRIL 28: The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department conducts its annual Youth TRACK AND FIELD Meet at McAleer High School for boys and girls born between 1976 and 1983. Deadline for entries is April 21, 5 pm. Call 753-7028 or 753-7029 for further information.

APRIL 28: Paul Krassner, Rob Morse, April Sinclair, and more than 30 other writers try to redefine genres in "Tear Down the Walls," the National Writers Union 1990 Conference. New College, 777 Valencia St. 861-4168

APRIL 28: The Upper Noe Valley Neighbors sponsor a FLEA MARKET/BAKE SALE at Buena Vista School to benefit the Buena Vista PTA in supporting school projects. 10 am-4 pm. 1670 Noe St. 695-5875 or 469-0775

APRIL 28: Flutist Radhika Miller, pianist Allaudin Mathieu, and percussionist Tony O'Anna make WORLD MUSIC together at the Noe Valley Ministry. 8-15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

APRIL 29: ED ASNER, JACKSON BROWNE and others take part in a benefit dance for anti-war activist Brian Willson. 4-9 pm. South of Market Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St. 957-1205

APRIL 29-MAY 25: Artists' Television Access presents "Project Mission: Who's the Landlord?," a MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION concerning issues of housing and urban culture. Opening reception April 29, 6-9 pm. Gallery hours: 11:30 am-8 pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890

APRIL 30: The U.C.S.F. mobile MAMMOGRAPHY VAN offers breast cancer screening for women with no known breast problems. The short exam costs \$50 and requires written or verbal approval from a doctor. 9 am-3 pm. Diamond Heights Blvd. next to Sausalway. 990-0459 or 476-2193 for appointments

APRIL 30: Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services hosts its first night of presentations and discussions in the "Lesbians and Gay Men CHOOSING CHILDREN 1990 Series." 7-9:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 641-0220.

APRIL 30: LAWRENCE WESCHTER, New Yorker staff reporter and author of *A Miracle, A Universe: Settling Accounts with Torturers*, discusses the plight and eventual triumph of torture victims and human rights activists in Brazil and Uruguay. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 282-9246

APRIL 1990

APRIL 6 & 7: "TANCE DANZ & GUESTS" perform earth-watch themes at the Third Wave Studio Theater. 8:30 pm. 3316 24th St. 968-5959

APRIL 6-22: Studio Eremos presents "Atlantis Paved Over," a multimedia REVUE in 12 scenes on the subject of the automobile. Fri-Sun, 8 pm. 499 Alabama. 621-8875.

APRIL 7: The Noe Valley Music Series spotlights CHASKINAKUY (the duo Edmond Badoux and Francy Vidal) performing the music of the Andes. 8-15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

APRIL 6 & 13: The play *Revolutionary Resurrection: A Tribute to Dr. Huey P. Newton* is part of a REVOLUTIONARY ART SERIES that runs through April 15 at Artists' Television Access. 8 pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890

APRIL 7: A HEALTH FAIR sponsored by the Mission Neighborhood Health Center and Chicanos in Health Education offers free medical exams and information. 9 am-3 pm. Mission Neighborhood Health Center, 240 Shotwell St. 552-3870, ext. 200.

APRIL 7: San Francisco Sex Information begins its Spring workshop and VOLUNTEER TRAINING, a 50-hour course in human sexuality and communication skills. Call 621-7300 between 3 and 9 pm for information.

APRIL 8: Wavy Gravy is scheduled to host a BENEFIT for the Nuclear Free Zone Campaign, featuring art exhibits, video projects, poetry, food and music. Noon-midnight. 1015 Folsom St. 995-4673

APRIL 10-JUNE 4: Artist RHYS MCCLURE exhibits monographs and watercolors at the Meal Market Coffeehouse through June 4. 285-5598

APRIL 11: SELMA JAMES, a founder of the International Wages for Housework Campaign, reads from her book *The Ladies and the Mammies: Jane Austen and Jean Rhys*. 7:30 pm. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675

APRIL 12: Writer Barbara Jamison and photographer David Maung examine *THE PANAMANIAN INVASION: Four Months Later* at Modern Times Bookstore. 7:30 pm. 968 Valencia St. 282-9246

APRIL 12: The Friends of Noe Valley steering committee holds its MEETING at the Noe Valley Library. 7:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. Call Bill Kuhns at 826-2304 for an agenda.

APRIL 12: Meet the composers as the Alligator Gallery & Performance Space presents the electro-acoustic NEW MUSIC of the Rubin Marsanyi Duo, with Tim Perkis, electronic network musician. 8:30 pm. 924 Valencia St. 695-0845.

APRIL 12-14: FOOTWORK hosts choreographer/performers Mercy Sidbury, Sonya Delwaide and Mel Wong in "Double Vision," an evening of solos and duets. 8:30 pm. 3221 22nd St. 586-4466 or 824-5044

APRIL 15-MAY 11: Gallery Sanchez hosts "To Heal the Earth," an EXHIBIT by artists Harry Pariser, Katherine Klein, Barbara Klutinis, William Clark Baughan, and Stuart Harwood, with a reception for the artists on Earth Day, April 22, 11:30 am to 2 pm. Gallery hours: Mon.-Sat., noon-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

ZIPPY

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The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Note: The next issue of the *Voice* will appear May 1, 1990. The deadline for May calendar items is April 15.



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East & West Club Brings Down the Barricades To the Castro

By ValJeanne Alexandrof

Seized by the hurst of *glasnost* fever spreading from Berlin to Bell Market, the East & West of Castro Improvement Club today announced a sweeping policy of economic and social reform, and the opening of the border dividing Noe and Eureka valleys.

"We must tear down the wall that separates our citizens," declared a triumphant Fred Helfner, East & West's polithurro chief. "And while we're at it, let's pull off a few posters, too."

Residents and retailers from both neighborhoods were ecstatic at the news. Once word got out, hoards of Noe Valleyans—finally free to cross the hill and shop on the other side—poured into the Castro's stores and restaurants, aghast at the array of goods and services available to those affluent enough to afford them.

At Cliff's Variety Store, customers stared in disbelief at the merchandise. "I never saw so many colored telephone cords in my life," said Rory "Twisted" Scoop. "If I weren't homeless, I sure would get that red one."

To Joshua Simon of Diamond Heights, the big surprise was the screw chart in Cliff's window. "So they really use a chart in the Castro," Simon said with wide-eyed amazement.

Under a new single-currency plan, the Bank of America has agreed to let the



PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

Castro Street Hill Leveled

Not everyone was happy with the East & West of Castro Club's decision to remove the hill separating Noe and Eureka valleys last month (to discourage skateboarding). Property owners were dismayed to learn they would shoulder the cost of a-righting their skewed buildings

ATM machines at its Castro and Market branch dispense the same American money that customers at the Noe Valley/24th Street branch now enjoy.

"Come and get it," said Mrs. Fields, manager of the Castro B of A. "Ja, voll," echoed Noe Valley branch manager Mr. Tugger.

Even more significant than the economic union was the relaxation of social

tahos. Intermarriage will now be permitted between Friends of Noe Valley and Castro Club members. "Until now," said Helfner, "the Castro-ites had to sneak over at two in the morning and congregate at Happy Donuts, often risking their lives."

The Reverend Holy Bagel, pastor of the Little Church Over the Hill, also observed. "Since unification, I've had a 50 percent increase in wedding bookings

from couples of every gender."

Not everyone in the area is happy about the swift pace of developments. Apprehensive about the possible effect of mingling on surrounding neighborhoods, the Mission District Council voted to demand a roll, or at least a croissant, in the ongoing talks. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a Mission spokesperson said,

Continued on Page 51



Police were still investigating the disappearance of termite rights activist Verman Rose last April 1 when

PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

Two 24th Street Neighbors
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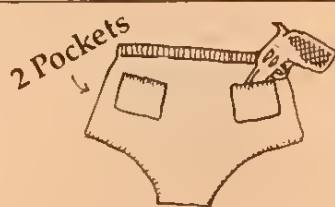


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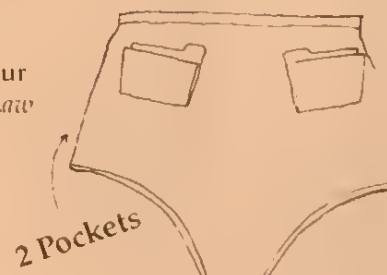
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Neighborhood To Earthquakes: You're Outa Here

By Chuckles LeBaron

Starting April 1, a whole lotta shakin' will no longer be going on—at least in this San Francisco neighborhood. That's because residents voted 3 to 1, in a neighborhood-wide plebiscite held last month, to declare Noe Valley an earthquake-free zone.

According to the new statute, which was sponsored by Californians for Earthquake Prevention (CEP), earthquakes of a magnitude higher than 4.0 will be outlawed within the area bounded by 21st and 30th streets, and Dolores and Grand View.

Following the election victory, CEP spokesperson Terry Firma expressed the views of many when she forecast a "Golden Age of Noe Valley."

"No more shall our community tremble with fear or our children live with seismic uncertainty," Firma said. "And just think what this will do to our property values!"

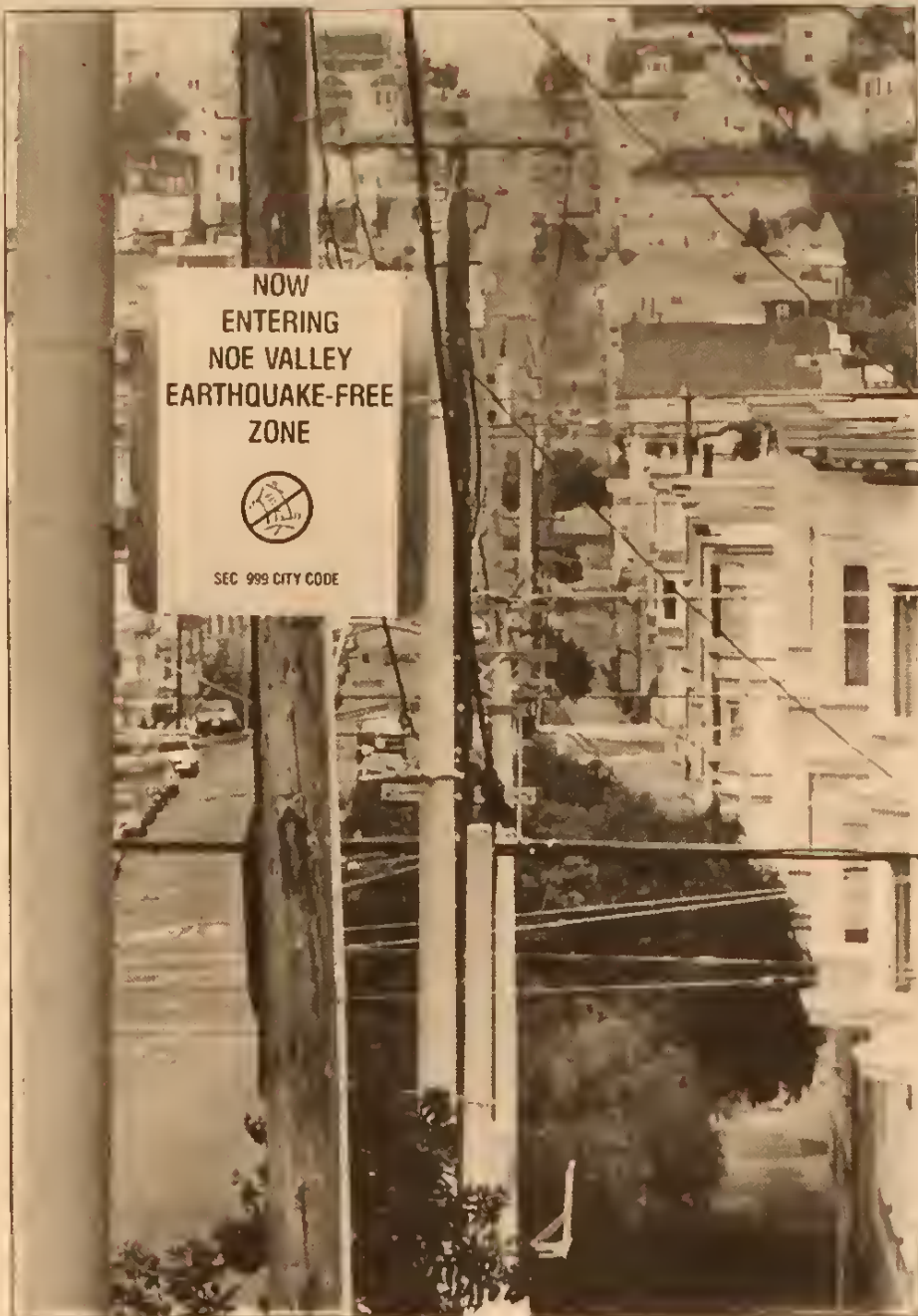
As if in response to Firma's statement, the Real Food Company, recently acquired by The Donald, switched its name to the Real Property Company and launched a campaign to offer Noe Valley's Victorians either packaged or in bulk.

Meanwhile, hundreds of homeowners began unbolting their houses from their foundations and consuming emergency supplies of canned food and bottled water. And entrepreneurs started churning out "Noe Valley Earthquake-Free Zone" tee shirts, mugs, and other quake paraphernalia.

Lassie Sweats, owner of the tee shirt shop that bears his name on 24th Street, reported that the most popular items were a license plate with the words "Live Quake-Free or Die" and a button reading, "This Time We Did It Before Berkeley."

As expected, Mayor Art Agnos and Giants' owner Bob Lurie renewed their negotiations with Bell Market for use of its parking lot as the site of a new baseball stadium.

But even as crews from DPW were in-



City work crews erected "Earthquake-Free Zone" signs 40 feet above ground (pictured) and "No Earthquakes Allowed" signs 400 feet below ground (not shown) throughout the neighborhood following the historic anti-tumbler vote last week. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

stalling the "NO Earthquakes/Violators Will Be Tarotred" signs at busy intersections, a cloud was forming on the horizon.

The NVBI discovered that Californians for Earthquake Prevention was not really a citizens group, but rather a consortium of real estate and pâté smugglers who planned to build highrise office buildings and condominiums in Noe Valley

just because earthquake-proofing was no longer required.

Furthermore, jealous residents of the Marina District, which was devastated by last October's 7.2 earthquake, launched a controversial campaign to annex their neighborhood to earthquake-free Noe

Continued on Page 06

Have You Seen This Man?

Communist Spotted in Neighborhood

By Bill Yarn

Political scientists, sociologists, and journalists converged on Noe Valley last month after the first confirmed sighting of a Communist in almost two years.

Communists joined humphack whales and condors on the endangered species list during the first Reagan administration.

Meat Market Coffeehouse counterperson Shirley Ujest told the *Voice* that she was wiping off a table when a man walked past her into the restroom, carrying what she thought was Mao's *Little Red Book*.

"I wasn't sure," she recalled. "But I figured I'd better check, just in case." After the man left the restroom and exited into 24th Street, Ujest discovered the slogan "Long Live the Dictatorship of the Proletariat!" scrawled on the wall of the toilet stall.

Later that evening, Duhliner's bartender Ann O'Tater overheard a patron, sitting alone at the far end of the bar, mutter, "Death to the fascist insects that prey on the backs of the people." Before she could call authorities, the man disappeared into the night.

Based on these two eyewitness accounts, police have released a description of the alleged Commie: white, male, pale complexion, black hair and beard, wearing a black beret, a Bard College sweatshirt, olive fatigue-style pants, and a tattered tweed sport coat with elbow patches and a "Free Bobby Seale" lapel pin. Police caution that the man is presumed to be articulate and may sneer without provocation.

Researchers from the California Academy of Sciences hope to get first crack at the elusive humanoid. The Academy, located in Golden Gate Park, boasts a new "Noe Valley wing," housing artifacts like the Earth shoes, paisley bedspread, and Buffalo Springfield album unearthed last fall at a Douglass Park dig. □

Coffee Tanker Runs Aground

Continued from Page 1

they'll probably lick themselves clean before long," said Rev. Carl Roasted-Smith. "But we're worried about the caffeine and milk giving these creatures gas. We'd really have a mop-up problem then."

Martha Melita, owner of S.F. Coffee, located just outside the wake of the spill, stressed that "this neighborhood is still cute, and we're open for business" as usual.

"We're offering to loan our thermoses to anyone willing to haul the brew over to Bernal. Those people are just too sleepy to make it over here."

Sgt. Bill Javahut of Mission Station

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By Beel Yeard

Following Mayor Agnos' declaration of 1990 as "The Year of the Ultra-Lingual Student," James McLick School opened its spring semester with a weekend-long festival highlighting the school's new all-language policy.

Speaking at a kickoff celebration April 1, Bwanda Flautas-Pong, director of the program, noted that "we've decided to eliminate the traditional white-dominated cultural and ethnic bias so prevalent in our educational system."

"Furthermore," she continued, "yabba dabba oompah de la nmrod, n'est-ce pas? When you strip away the levels of higostry, ehing toy lung walla-walla bing-bang," an assertion this reporter, at least, was slow to refute.

Over 400 teachers, students, and par-

said more than three dozen police officers responded to the scene, but "it'll be weeks, maybe months, before traffic returns to normal and we can get this swill out of here."

Fearing reaction by desperate coffee addicts from outside the area, the police have also beefed up their regular Noe Valley patrols. (At press time, the *Voice* was already receiving reports of coffee-looting by roving bands of caffeine addicts from the cut-off regions of Bernal Heights and Potrero Hill.)

In addition to the coffee-withdrawal problem, there is another pot brewing. Many de-caffeinated neighborhood residents are beginning to show signs of in-

ents were on hand to hear a long line-up of speakers, including Language Arts Department chairperson Abdul O'Leary-Farten-Flunken. "Greetings, hieckpuddle," he yelled to wild applause. "Bzzzrump! clack-clack donda esta tovarishch. Noogie snotsylvania! And this means you, nährisch Fledermaus," he added, glancing toward this reporter.

O'Leary-Farten-Flunken's speech was cut short, however, when his sign-language translator suffered finger spasms and had to be carried from the podium.

Meanwhile, in a related development, Muni announced that it would be hiring McLick's ultralingual graduates to help with the monumental task of translating the graffiti on the city's buses and streetcars into the 32 languages San Francis-

Continued on Page 494

tense over-stimulation. Young women with baby carriages have been seen racing up Noe Valley hills pushing their babies as if they were running for their lives. And elderly residents have been observed skateboarding and surfing in low-lying areas.

Walter Processed, chief psychiatric resident at St. Luke's Hospital, said most of the symptoms associated with caffeine overdose, such as increased energy and rapid heart rate, should begin to disappear 72 to 98 hours after exposure. However, he urged any residents known to have high blood pressure to visit their closest emergency room or physician for immediate testing.

Meanwhile, environmental activists are estimating the cost of the clean-up to be in the millions, and are disputing the method suggested by the CCGA to get rid of the mess.

"Freeze-drying that lake of liquid mud is no solution," asserts Friends of the Ground spokesperson Miriam Brewstein. "There's a lot of garbage down there at the bottom, and we don't want to see this stuff vacuum-packed and on Bell Market shelves next month." □

The Ship of Fools

This completely biodegradable and recyclable April Fool's issue was written, designed, produced, field-tested, mulled over, and partially digested by a crew of fiercely independent contractors at the *Voice*, namely Jeanne Alexander, Karol Barske, Helen Colgan, Charles Kennard, Sally Smith, Jack Tipple, Charlie Varon, and Bill Yard.

The ink will rub off on your hands.

C R A S S A D S

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THE NO VALLEY VOICE

Huge Coffee Spill on 24th Street

By Helen Maxwell-House
and Jack Dripple

Disaster struck Noe Valley on April 1 when a giant coffee tanker, the *Juan Valdez*, ran aground outside Spinelli Coffee Company's shop on 24th Street near Noe. The ship's entire cargo of 138 million gallons of freshly-brewed Colombian coffee was lost, creating a deluge not seen in this neighborhood since the Great Cocaine Spill of 1983. Witnesses said the tanker, apparently off course on its way to Bernal Heights harbor, plowed directly into Spinelli's curbside henches. Reached at the Cork 'n' Raven har within hours of the accident, a shaky Eduardo Espresso, captain of the *Valdez*, said that a double-parked Bakers of Paris van made it impossible for his vessel to navigate the narrow 24th Street channel. Although there were no known fatalities in the incident, at least 17 young urban professionals who frequent the sidewalk in front of the coffee store are reported to be missing, as are the flocks of beloved pigeons who follow them in their migration patterns. Immediately after the spill, a burro, looking similar to the mascot of the Colombian Coffee Growers Association (CCGA), was found by neighborhood groundskeeper Fred Decafner, who has volunteered to head up the local clean-up efforts. "The burro will be great for carrying my paint buckets once we get this darned coffee cleaned up," Decafner said. Building damage at the site of the wreck was limited, although Spinelli's is completely submerged. "There's only a white foamy pool where my shop used to



Voice photographer Chuck Kennard snapped this photo minutes after the disastrous coffee spill April 1. Then he went for donuts.

be," moaned manager Eric Grinderson. "It's the latté urns all right," he added. "We were brewing a big batch for the to-go crowd." Grinderson said his employees were all safe, however. Paychecks had been handed out moments before the crash,

and there were no workers on the premises, he noted. A number of neighborhood dogs were slimed by the foam and brought to the Noe Valley Ministry for care. "I know

Continued on next Page

1990 Noe Census Makes Perfect Sense

By Sally (not her real name) Smith

The U.S. Census Bureau announced completion of the 1990 Noe Valley Census last week, and other than the appearance of a large peanut cluster in the residential area bordering the Treat Shop (see graphic), the statistical results yielded few surprises. According to the census report, the typical Noe Valleyan is an adult child who has had .04 sex partners since 1982, sports 2.7 pierced-earring holes, and has abused at least one substance in the past six months. S/he is also a chiropractor. Fifty percent of respondents to the survey were recovering cocaine, alcohol, nicotine, caffeine, love or therapy addicts, with the remainder being codependents on a full-or part-time basis. The average resident—who consumes 14 take-out orders per week—has 4 percent bacon fat, but only 10 percent total body fat, possibly because 25 percent has been removed through liposuction. The political makeup of the neighborhood was about as expected: out of every 100 residents, 3 listed themselves as Republicans, 10 as Democrats, 34 as Socialists, and 53 as members of the newly formed Lapsitter Party. Over 65 percent of survey respondents said they regularly exercised tartar sauce control, but the general condition of our gums was blanched and receding, due to a large increase in haguette consumption. The number of gay households (as well as closets in households) was up since the 1980 census, but the number of happy households had declined slightly in the past decade. The statistical breakdown in other areas was as follows:

Religious Affiliation
41% Jewish
23% Protestant
23% Catholic
7% Fatalistic
32% Astrologic
28% Recycling
49% 49er Faithful

Numbers Per Household
4 Mountain Bikes
3 Stationary Bikes
2 Au Pairs
22 Sock Pairs
4 Boxes Oat Bran
2 Cans 2-month-old Tuna Fish
1 Joshua
1 Jennifer
1 longshoreman named Ralph

The average income of Noe Valley residents is too embarrassing to report in a family newspaper, but under the Freedom of Information Act readers can write

Continued on Page 00

Do black clothes
cause global
warming?

Answer on page 42



The Assumption of Our Lady of the Pigeons

After years of harassment from anti-bird-feeding fanatics, Noe Valley's Pigeon Lady was finally rescued by her feathered friends and whisked off to a safe coop last month. She is reportedly resting comfortably aboard the pigeons' newly acquired seed tanker, the *Guano Valdez*.

PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD